

U.S. open to Russia-Iran deal

MILDENHALL MILITARY BASE (AFP) — The United States said Wednesday it would not oppose Russia's sale of nuclear reactors to Iran if Tehran agreed to get rid of the spent fuel. The compromise is "something that we would possibly consider but which we are not negotiating," a senior administration official told reporters here as Secretary of State Warren Christopher returned from a Mideast tour. "A lot of people brought up the idea in and outside our government," he said but he added: "We are in the primary stages." Russia announced in February it had signed a \$1 billion agreement with Tehran to build a nuclear reactor at Bushehr on the Gulf despite U.S. objections that the facility could be used by Iran to develop a nuclear arsenal. President Bill Clinton announced Tuesday he would bar U.S. companies from developing Iran's oil and gas reserves including oil giant Conoco which was forced to scrap a \$1-billion contract with Tehran (see page 12). The official said the ban on oil exploration provided leverage to force Tehran to offer guarantees it will not use the Russian technology for military purposes. "We are in a better position to ask for similar steps," he said.

Danes
Danish doctors
African group
win Population
Awards

Jordan Times

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King honours Indonesia envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday conferred upon Indonesian Ambassador to Jordan Mohammad Hassan Adami Al Istiklal Medal of the First Order on the occasion of the end of his tour of duty in the Kingdom. The medal was presented to the ambassador by Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti at a luncheon held in Mr. Adami's honour.

Menem's son killed

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Carlos Menem Jr., son of Argentine President Carlos Menem, died Wednesday in a hospital soon after his helicopter crashed, local television said. He was 25.

Shells slam into Galilee area

TEL AVIV (AP) — Several mortar rounds landed near the Israel-Lebanon border Wednesday, and one reportedly scored a direct hit on an army position, military sources and Israel Radio said. Military sources said at least four shells, probably from long-range mortars fired by guerrillas in southern Lebanon, exploded in an open area straddling the border in the Galilee panhandle. But Israel Radio said one of the shells landed inside an Israeli army position along the border causing slight damage, but no injuries. Settlements along the front went on alert and Israeli artillery fire was returned to the source of fire, the radio said.

Lebanese deputy among 36 charged

BEIRUT (AP) — A parliament member who triggered a political uproar in December was among 36 people charged Wednesday with illegal drug trafficking. Deputy Yahya Shamas and 30 followers were charged with "large-scale" drugs smuggling and trafficking, according to the indictment by the investigating magistrate, Saeed Mirza. Mr. Mirza dismissed charges against 11 other suspects for lack of evidence. In a separate case, businessman Naim Maalouf and four other people were charged with smuggling 100 kilogrammes cocaine from Colombia. In both cases, Mr. Mirza demanded imprisonment of the suspects for up to seven years at hard labour. They are all in custody pending trial.

Castro ready to do business with Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Cuban President Fidel Castro declared himself eager to trade with Israel in an interview published in Wednesday's *Davar* newspaper. "Cuba wants to do business with Israel, even in the absence of diplomatic relations between the two countries," Mr. Castro told the trade union daily on his trip to Paris this week. Havana broke off ties with the Jewish state over the 1973 Middle East war and Israel has backed the United States economic sanctions against the communist regime. Nonetheless an Israeli chief rabbi met for the first time with Mr. Castro in Cuba in February 1994.

PNA slaps back tax demand on W. Bankers

BEIT SAHIR (AFP) — The people of a West Bank town who became a symbol of the fight against occupation by refusing to pay Israeli tax have received demands for six year's arrears from the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). The angry folk of Beit Sahur, near Bethlehem, have appealed to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat by letter to be exempted from taxes on troops into the town who made arrests and seized goods in lieu of taxes during the intifada which erupted in December 1987 and officially came to an end with the launch of autonomy in May 1994.

Prince Hassan, Peres hold talks with Kohl, senior EU officials

German chancellor affirms interest in helping peacebuilding in Mideast

Talks cover financing for water projects

BONN (Agencies) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Wednesday held talks with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl on the implementation of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

Prince Hassan and Mr. Peres told a press conference after the meeting that the European Commission has taken the first steps toward helping build \$400 million dam projects that would send water from the Jordan and Yarmouk Rivers to Jordan.

The two men asked for European assistance for the projects in meetings with Chancellor Kohl and Manuel Marin, a European Commission official in charge of relations with the Middle East.

Mr. Peres said the European Commission is going to propose that the 16-nation European Union spend \$40 million to conduct a feasibility study.

Prince Hassan said the feasibility study may be finished before June.

Crown Prince Hassan, in his talks with Assistant Euro-

pean Commissioner Marin, discussed several issues of concern to the EU and Jordan.

Prince Hassan briefed Mr. Marin on Jordan's views on a European role in rebuilding and developing the Middle East region in accordance with the new realities resulting from the peace process.

Prince Hassan reiterated proposals he made during meetings with EU officials in Brussels last November on concepts on partnership relations between Europe as a single economic and political bloc and the countries of the Mediterranean as one development region seeking to achieve stability and balance and consequently development and reconstruction.

Prince Hassan referred to the role of the EU in supporting and financing some projects in the wake of the peace process, namely water and irrigation projects and those related to developing the Jordan Rift Valley.

Mr. Marin stressed the EU's keenness to continue its support of the region and of peace efforts, and referred to the special relations between

the EU and Jordan.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Planning Rima Khafaf, who is accompanying the Crown Prince on the visit.

Later in the day the Crown Prince was received by Chancellor Kohl, who stressed Germany's appreciation of the Jordanian role in peace-making in the region and expressed Germany's support of the Kingdom in the coming era.

Mr. Peres and Mr. Marin joined the meeting later along with German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel.

Discussion at the expanded meeting focused on the latest developments in the peace process and efforts exerted to define the economic and political relations among the Middle Eastern countries.

The Crown Prince briefed the meeting on the ideas and proposals which will be presented at the Amman economic summit, which will be held in October, and stressed Jordan's keenness to bring it to success.

Chancellor Kohl hosted a lunch in honour of the Crown

(Continued on page 7)



German Chancellor Helmut Kohl (centre) with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Bonn on Wednesday (AFP photo)

Major ends visit reiterating British support for Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — British Prime Minister John Major left Jordan on Wednesday after paying tribute to Jordan's commitment to peace and reaffirming his country's continued support for the King.

Mr. Major, who held talks with His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan shortly after his arrival Tuesday evening, also reiterated London's backing for Jordan's quest for debt relief.

Mr. Major, who was accompanied by Trade Minister Richard Needham, was seen off by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and senior officials.

During a meeting early Wednesday with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Mr. Major said, "I took the opportunity...to stress the very strong support that we feel in Britain for the role King Hussein has played in the Middle East peace process."

The British prime minister, speaking to reporters at the

Prime Ministry, described the Oct. 26 Jordan-Israel peace treaty as "imaginative" and said: "We believe it is right for Jordan and...for the Middle East as a whole, so we firmly support it."

On how he saw where Britain could help Jordan, the prime minister said: "I think there are practical steps, and the first practical one is so far the debt forgiveness."

London wrote off \$75 million in Jordan's official debts to the British government late last year. Jordan has appealed to Britain's partners in the 15-member European Union (EU) who are also members of the Paris Club of creditor governments for similar gestures.

Further British assistance was believed to be one of the topics discussed during Mr. Major's visit. It was not immediately known whether any definite commitments were made.

However, Mr. Major appeared to throw his country's weight behind Jordan's plans to economic development through the private sector.

He pointed out that it was

in this spirit that he brought along "the most high-power trade delegation that ever left the U.K."

That was a reference to the chief executives of several British giants who accompanied him on his visit to Israel, the Palestinian self-rule territories and Jordan.

The British prime minister also expressed hope "to see an increase in trade and also an increase of investment from abroad into the Jordan economy."

Mr. Major, whose delegation included Trade Minister Richard Needham, said his talks with Sharif Zeid focused on a wide range of bilateral matters, economic matters and trade matters..."

British exports to Jordan during 1994 were worth \$114 million (about JD 125 million) while the Kingdom's exports to Britain — mostly clothes and agricultural produce — amounted to \$24.1 million (about JD 26 million).

Before his meeting with Sharif Zeid, Mr. Major announced a donation of

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Clinton sees chance for durable peace after Christopher's trip

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton said on Wednesday he now sees a real opportunity to secure a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

"I believe there is now a real opportunity to secure a durable resolution to the Arab-Israeli conflict," Mr. Clinton said at a joint news conference after White House talks with King Hassan of Morocco.

"We must accelerate the momentum for peace in the Middle East," he said.

The comment highlighted an expanded U.S. role in the peace process under a plan for negotiations worked out during a Middle East trip by Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

King Hassan echoed the president's sentiments and lauded progress towards peace.

"This newborn peace

appears to be threatened by dangers because it's not a full-fledged peace," he said. "For peace to be achieved, the pace for negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis needs to be accelerated."

Mr. Clinton met with King Hassan as Mr. Christopher returned with the agreement between Israel and Syria to start talking again early next week in Washington to work out an agreement on the future of the strategic Golan Heights.

On a sunny, spring-like day King Hassan was welcomed to the White House with a 21-gun salute. Mr. Clinton called him "a good friend of America and one of the Islamic World's most respected leaders."

King Hassan praised Clinton's "relentless efforts" for Middle East peace.

The administration's new

(Continued on page 7)

strategy places Dennis Ross, a former academic who worked on Middle East diplomacy for President George Bush as well as Mr. Clinton, in the midst of tough bargaining between Israel and Syria.

Mr. Ross is also taking over at least some of Secretary of State Warren Christopher's shuttling duties. He

will go to the region in about two weeks to set the stage for senior Israeli and Syrian military commanders to join the Washington talks.

What has not changed is the desire for Israel and Syria to bargain in secrecy, without the participants facing questions from reporters on what they are saying to each other and how they may be doing.

Even the exact day they will begin is not being announced.

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(Continued on page 7)

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Questions unanswered yet on road accident

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

ZARQA — Controversy still surrounds the cause of Monday's road accident in which seven people were killed and 27 others injured, five of them critically.

Initial reports suggested that speeding and wrong overtaking by the driver of a minibus that carried students were the reason behind the accident.

Eyewitnesses and survivors said that the driver, who was killed instantly in the collision, was one of the safest drivers working on the Jerash-Zarqa route and he was not speeding when the accident took place.

The theory, advanced by some relatives of the victims immediately following the collision, that the driver had a heart attack behind the wheel, was discounted by hospital sources yesterday.

The most senior traffic police official, brigadier General Ibrahim Sarareh, assistant to the director of the police department, said the investigation was still continuing and its results would be presented to the court as soon as it was completed.

The team of experts who investigated the accident indicated that the bus which was going on a curve down the hill passed the centre lane which means that the driver was speeding and lost control of his vehicle," Brig. Gen. Sarareh said.

He told the Jordan Times that a military truck that was coming from the opposite direction was carrying a heavy load and driving on the right side of the road.

"It is not possible that the

(Continued on page 7)

Sharif Zeid and Sedki chair Cairo talks today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee meets in Cairo today for the second time since July 1990 to discuss economic cooperation between the two countries under the chairmanship of Prime Ministers Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Atef Sedki.

Sharif Zeid is scheduled to travel to the Egyptian capital early today to attend the meeting, which will discuss draft agreements reached by a preliminary committee, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said.

It said the agreements covered political relations and cooperation in tourism, transport, labour, energy and customs procedures and duties.

Minister of Trade and Industry Ali Abu Ragheb left for Cairo Wednesday afternoon.

Sharif Zeid will head the Jordanian delegation to the meetings. The delegation will include Mr. Abu Ragheb and the ministers of the various sectors of cooperation envisaged in the draft agreements. The Egyptian side will group their counterparts.

The joint committee met last in Amman on May 5 and 6 and cleared up some of the issues that were pending as a result in the hiatus in meetings since July 28, 1990, when it convened its last session before Egyptian-Jordanian ties were strained as a result of conflicting approaches to the Gulf crisis triggered by the Aug. 2, 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Definite details were not immediately available of the

draft agreements to be presented to the two-day Cairo meeting, the 12th session of the committee which was set up in 1985. But officials say that both sides have shown keen interest in developing close cooperation after the rift in relations was healed.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak visited Aqaba in January in his first trip to Jordan since 1990 sealing reconciliation.

The volume of trade between the two countries fell to \$48 million in fiscal 1993-1994, from \$51 million in 1992-93. The Jordanian export component of the trade was less than \$6 million.

Final Jordanian figures for trade with Egypt in 1994 are not available, but preliminary figures indicate a slight increase over the 1993 figure.

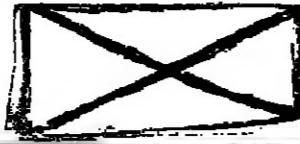
In addition to political issues such as the Middle East peace process and regional security, trade and exchange of expertise, streamlining Jordanian-Egyptian travel, joint tourism and transport projects are expected to top the committee's discussions.

Also expected to be reviewed are plans of a joint holding company and the linkage of the national power grids of the two countries.

Among the issues to be discussed by the joint committee are also issues related to Egyptian workers in Jordan and Jordanian students in Egypt.

While in Cairo, Mr. Abu Ragheb will also attend a meeting of the Arab Social and Economic Council on Friday. Commercial exchanges and economic cooperation among Arab coun-

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Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday training courses in Al Bassa and Iraq Al Amir (Photo by George Crystal)

Queen visits NHF projects at Bassa, Iraq Al Amir

JORDAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday visited the two quality of Life Projects established by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) at Al Bassa village and at Iraq Al Amir in Wadi Seer, a royal Court statement said. Queen Noor officially opened the "Al Noor" Kindergarten at Al Bassa, built this year to serve the preschool children of the village. The kindergarten was established in 1994 with various sources of financial support including the Christian Children's Fund.

Queen Noor chatted with her children as she inspected the kindergarten's educational and recreational facilities. At Iraq Al Amir, Queen Noor was briefed on the Bassa/Iraq Al Amir Development Project at the central office located in a small renovated farmhouse.

Over the past decade, the Queen has been encouraging the development of high quality artisan centres in Jordan's ancient villages located near archaeological sites in order to promote Jordanian handicrafts and to integrate socio-economic development with tourism.

The NHF handicrafts centre at Iraq Al Amir is an example of her endeavours. The Queen toured the paper production and textile weaving centre located in another renovated farmhouse, which was set up in February 1993 with the aid of sons and a weaving expert from the government of China.

The Canadian embassy provided funds for faster and wider Indian looms. Queen Noor, with the help of Dr. Usama Khalidi, demonstrated the centre's products.

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duction of handmade paper from local vegetable fiber. She also discussed the NHF plans to renovate 9-11 more buildings thus creating a small village that will preserve the architectural and handicrafts heritage of the region and would be linked to the archaeological site of Iraq Al Amir — enhancing its touristic appeal and increasing the benefits to the community.

Queen Noor inspected the Dutch Cow Project, funded by Princess Irene of Greece's "World in Harmony Organisation." The project, as well as the other NHF small-scale agricultural projects such as medicinal herbs, not only generate income and jobs for rural families, but also improve their health by satisfying their nutritional needs.

It is based on grassroots democratic community participation in the planning, management and evaluation of development schemes.

By 1994, the Quality of Life Project was benefiting 2,000 families in 12 villages and 25,000 people living in those villages and in the neighbouring areas.

The project is recognised by WHO as a regional training model and the NHF plans to introduce it as a national model for socio-economic development in Jordan. The NHF until now has trained delegations from Iran, Syria, Egypt and Pakistan and will train delegations from Morocco, Yemen and Oman.

Queen Noor, accompanied by Mrs. Noor Izzeddin, was received at Al Bassa village by Governor of Amman Talaat Nawaisch, the acting director of NHF, the Swiss Ambassador to Jordan and his wife, a representative from WHO, the director of the Wadi Seer district and other local officials. At Iraq Al Amir, the Queen was received by the Local Development Council, the Mother and Child Health Club and the employees of the Iraq Al Amir Development Project.

A minimum of 250 jobs will be created for women in the four projects. The Swiss government donated JD400,000 for two years beginning November 1994 to

Senior ministry officials convene for first meeting on administrative reform

JORDAN (Petra) — In the first meeting of its kind, Minister of Administrative Development Moheiddin al-Qudra Wednesday met with secretaries general and general directors of government institutions in the Kingdom to review administrative reform plans of the ministry. Deputising for Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Aker, Dr. Tog explained the objectives of the newly-established ministry, emphasising on administrative reform and ways and means of implementing it in Jordan.

The establishment of the ministry of Administrative Development was the result of a pressing need for institutionalising the administrative reform process," Dr. Tog said at the meeting which took place at the Royal Cultural Centre.

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"But the ministry will not be able to carry out the development process on its own unless the ministries and departments themselves recognise the need for it."

Dr. Tog explained that the ministry should not be considered as an office for complaints nor is its task to solve the ministries' or their employees' problems.

He called on secretaries general to examine their options and come up with the best solutions or ideas to how to initiate a system of reform in administrative procedures.

He said that the secretaries general should take into consideration that employees themselves should also participate in the decision making process with regards to offering suggestions that

would improve on government efficiency, and meet citizens' needs.

Dr. Tog said the administrative development plan initiated by the ministry aims at improving the performance of governmental institutions through increasing their efficiency and upgrading the level of their apparatus.

The minister stressed the need to facilitate routine procedures at the governmental departments and institutions.

He said an overall restructuring is urgently needed and new departments for training staff should be added.

Minister Tog said the development process mainly aims at reducing the cost of government apparatus, increasing efficiency and enhancing coordination with the private sector.

He added that the students, who spent less than an hour in the hospital, returned to school after receiving first aid treatment.

A CDD official said that samples of the gas from the tube itself are being examined to determine what the contents were.

On Tuesday in a 74-year-old man in Al Hashmeh area of Amman died in hospital after suffering third degree burns, in a fire which engulfed his home, CDD and police reports said.

The report said that Sayed Abdul Khalil was working on the roof of a building owned and operated by the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) when he accidentally fell.

The police report said that an autopsy will be performed to determine the exact cause of the death. Police said they are investigating the incident.

Tuesday's Irbid accident brings the total number of people killed on-the-job in the Kingdom since January to nine.

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Civil Defence Department (CDD) Wednesday opened a two-day public exhibition to mark International Day of the Civil Defence at Al Hussein Sports City.

The exhibition, opened by CDD Director Lieutenant General Aff Ghoul, included an exhibition of equipment and vehicles used by the CDD.

Also, the exhibition, which was visited by kindergarten and elementary school students from different parts of the Kingdom included films and documentaries of the CDD's achievements.

CDD officers explained safety procedures to students which could be applied in their schools and at home and performed first-aid demonstrations while explaining the various steps to the youngsters.

According to Major Mohammad Qoteishat, director of the exhibition, the aim of the display was to introduce people of all ages to the mission of the CDD, and to get to know the roles, duties and preparations that the CDD teams take on.

"We are trying to strengthen the comprehensive concept of the CDD among people, which means 'me and you and everyone else living in the society,'" Maj. Qoteishat said.

Moreover, on the occasion of the CDD international day, Mohammad Hadid, president of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) presented 100 first-aid kits, 500 blankets and five tents to the CDD in recognition to their distinguished efforts in human services.

According to the major, people's response to the exhibitions was positive, and "we sensed their respect and appreciation for our services, and we appreciate the confidence people have in us."

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"We are trying to strengthen the comprehensive concept of the CDD among people, which means 'me and you and everyone else living in the society,'" Maj. Qoteishat said.

Moreover, on the occasion of the CDD international day, Mohammad Hadid, president of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) presented 100 first-aid kits, 500 blankets and five tents to the CDD in recognition to their distinguished efforts in human services.

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Yeltsin names TV journalist as new press aide

Russian politics shaken up by new pro-Yeltsin party

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russian politics have been shaken up by the formation of a new party backing President Boris Yeltsin and growing speculation that upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections could be postponed.

The Stability Party registered officially this week as a new centrist group in the State Duma (lower house of parliament), poaching its 36 deputies from across the political spectrum and disrupting the inter-party power balance.

One of the party's main backers, banker Oleg Boiko, said this week that the power behind the party was the country's "seven or eight" major banks, which he said wanted no part of the instability which would come with elections.

"It is clear that the result will be a worse parliament and a worse president," he said in a long interview in the newspaper *Kommersant* Tuesday under a headline saying: "The big banks do not need the elections."

Parliamentary elections are scheduled in December and presidential elections in June 1996. But there has been growing speculation that they may be postponed because of the current climate of lawlessness in Russia.

The speculation has been fuelled by Mr. Yeltsin's sharp decline in popularity since the beginning of the year, which the new party aims to

reverse. One poll at the end of February showed that only seven per cent of Russians had confidence in the president, against 71 per cent who did not.

"We need to maintain the current balance of political forces, which is not as bad as people think," Mr. Boiko said.

He added that the Chechenya conflict had unsettled all Russia's political parties, and that nearly half the Duma's deputies were against the official lines of their leaders.

Mr. Boiko, who resigned last weekend as co-president of the reformist Russia's Choice Party, said the Stability Party stood for reinforcing central power, political stability, the avoidance of crises and "constructive politics."

The big loser from the defections was Russia's Choice, the largest party in the Duma. As well as Mr. Boiko, seven of its deputies went over to Stability, leaving it with 57 seats, party spokesman Oleg Bondarenko said.

He maintained that Russia's Choice was still clinging to its position as the largest single party in the 225-seat Duma, a shade ahead of Vladimir Shironovski's ultra-nationalist Liberal Democratic Party (LDPR).

Several LDPR members have also defected to Stability.

But it is impossible to make a formal count to determine a top television journalist to be his chief press spokesman.

mine whether the ultra-nationalists have in fact pulled ahead of the free marketeers in the Duma because of the constantly-shifting alliances typical of Russian politics.

Stability has been in the making since the beginning of the year, after Russia's Choice began attacking Mr. Yeltsin for the military's hardline aggression in crushing a secessionist rebellion in Chechenya.

On Saturday, Russia's Choice formally withdrew its backing from Mr. Yeltsin in next year's presidential election "because of the bloody events in Chechenya," Mr. Bondarenko said.

Stability, described by Mr. Bondarenko as "democratic with a centrist orientation", has its origins in a meeting called by Yeltsin aide Andrei Lopatin last month with potential defectors.

Soon afterwards, Russia's Choice warned that they were being bought with promises of government support.

Mr. Zhirinovski went further. He called the defectors "traitors" and demanded that the Duma investigate the circumstances of Stability's birth.

"Behind all that is the Kremlin which wants to penetrate into the Duma," he said in a newspaper interview Tuesday.

President Yeltsin named a top television journalist to be his chief press spokesman a day earlier.

Tuesday in a move to improve his image ahead of challenges at the ballot box.

Mr. Yeltsin signed a decree appointing 37-year-old Sergei Medvedev, a political adviser, as his immediate Moscow's ambassador to the Vatican.

Mr. Medvedev, who presents a political news programme called *News Plus*, hinted that his immediate task would be to try to keep Mr. Yeltsin more in tune with the outside world and the public more informed of Kremlin affairs.

"The estrangement of the presidential team from the press can fully be overcome," he told ITAR-TASS news agency.

He appeared to be referring to increasing press criticism that the 64-year-old Russian president at times seems out of touch with reality and is sometimes under the influence of political opportunists within his entourage.

The liberal press in particular has named Major-General Alexander Korzhakov, who heads Yeltsin's Kremlin Security Service, as one such adviser who has the ear of the president.

Mr. Yeltsin's appointment of Mr. Medvedev, a well-known figure to the public, and the removal of the combative Kostikov seemed clearly aimed at improving the president's image before parliamentary elections.



U.S. marines survivors in combat suits attend the 50th anniversary of the battle for Iwo Jima Island (AFP photo)

U.S. vets put Iwo Jima ghosts to rest

IWO JIMA, Japan (AP) — Harvey Garner looked down and fell silent for a moment as his feet sank into the black sand of invasion beach.

"This feels familiar," he said, tears welling in his eyes. "This feels very familiar."

From its eerie caverns to the crumbling gray pillboxes that dot the landscape, Iwo Jima is an island haunted by its bloody past.

But 50 years after Americans came here to find their own little hell on Earth, Garner and several hundred other veterans of the battle to win this secluded crag put some of those ghosts to rest.

"I don't feel bad about coming back here," said Garner, of Tampa, Florida, as he walked down the beach. Fifty years ago, he ran for his life up the same stretch of sand, with Japanese shooting at him from both sides.

"I thank God I made it. Many didn't," he said.

The veteran of the 5th Marine Division was among more than 800 American vets and their families who came back to Iwo Jima for a 50th anniversary memorial.

U.S. troops stormed ashore on Feb. 19, Tuesday's ceremony, the only official one planned by the military, commemorated the island's capture after weeks of bitter fighting.

A band of Japanese survivors along with 100 or so relatives of soldiers who fought here, including the son and widow of the Japanese commander on Iwo Jima, Tadamichi Kuribayashi, also attended the ceremony.

The Japanese government, which has distanced itself

from 50th anniversary ceremonies, sent no cabinet-level officials, even though the Americans were represented by Navy Secretary John Dalton and Marine Commandant Gen. Carl E. Mundt, Jr.

Dozens of drab green trucks shuttled the veterans around the island to the sites of some of worst fighting. As

they looked out over the thick jungle brush, the veterans pointed to spots they remembered, or to the many plumes of steam from the island's volcanic depths.

Today, the island's only full-time inhabitants are a few hundred Japanese troops who man the airfield here.



Commandant of U.S. Marine Corps, General Carl Mundt, Jr. (left) delivers a speech at the top of Mt. Suribachi during the commemorative ceremony for the 50th anniversary of the battle for Iwo Jima Island, some 1,250 kilometres (780 miles) south of Tokyo. Secretary of Navy John Dalton (2nd left) looks on (AFP photo)

La Scala artists perform opera in plain clothes

MILAN, Italy (AP) — It's a tradition to wear your best evening clothes to the famous La Scala opera house. The performers, however, dressed down. Cast members performing Arrigo Boito's *Mefistofele* donned jeans and sweaters for the first act of Sunday night's performance to chide management. Before the opera began, loudspeakers gave an explanation for the unusual spectacle: "To protest against excessive management laxity, precarious security measures and the failure to renew this year's work contract." Director Riccardo Muti did not lose his composure and proceeded as if nothing had happened. The opera ended with a standing ovation from the audience.

Budapest Opera wants probe into cut ballet rope

BUDAPEST (AP) — The Budapest Opera House demanded a probe into a near-accident to a ballerina caused by a deliberately severed rope this weekend. Management said that "a potential tragedy was averted at the last minute" when technicians noted that a rope used to lower a dancer to the stage had been deliberately cut. They helped the dancer down manually. Neither the audience, nor dancer Ferenc Havasi, who celebrated his sixtieth birthday dancing the title role of *Bela Bartok's Miraculous Mandarin*, noticed the incident at the opening gala performance of the Interballet Festival in Budapest Saturday.

French bank has sticky problem with client

HAGUENAU, France (AP) — A French bank branch in Haguenau, eastern France, had a sticky problem on its hands — carpet, actually — when an enraged young woman client gave vent to her feelings by gluing both feet to the bank's wall-to-wall carpeting. The woman, about 20, said "I won't leave until my problem is solved," using a powerful glue to attach herself to the carpet. The bank employees, keeping calm on the incident, used solvents to unglue the feet and police to remove the annoyed client. Police said the woman had wanted to settle a financial problem relating to the ex-girlfriend of the young man with whom she now lives.

Drug cleared of breast cancer risk

WELLINGTON (AP) — A study into the use of the controversial contraceptive drug Depo-Provera shows it does not increase the risk of breast cancer, one of the authors of the report said Monday. A three-monthly injected method of contraception, Depo-Provera is used by an estimated nine million women in 90 countries. New Zealand is regarded as the leading user of the method in the Western World where its use is more restricted because of fears of breast cancer. Those concerns caused the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to ban it in 1978. The FDA allowed it back on the United States market in 1992. In a study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, data was collected from women in New Zealand, Thailand, Kenya and Mexico. It was written by Professor F. G. MacLennan with support from the World Health Organization.

"And then Cordoba leaves the building and Fuhrman follows him out into the parking lot and repeats the same epithet."

Deputy District Attorney Marcia Clark scoffed at Mr. Bailey's claims, saying prosecutors had interviewed Sgt. Cordoba and he had never accused Mr. Fuhrman of using "your boy is here." Mr. Bailey said.

Mr. Bailey said Ms. Terry, who lives in Utah, would testify that Mr. Fuhrman said interracial couples "violated the laws of nature." Ruling over prosecution objections, Judge Ito said he would allow Ms. Terry to testify later during the defence case.

During the confrontation, members of the mostly black jury sat transfixed and virtually expressionless in the hushed courtroom.

Earlier, Judge Ito ruled that Mr. Bailey could cross-examine the detective about Marine Sergeant Max Cordoba's allegations after prosecutors have a chance to interview him. Since that could take days, Mr. Fuhrman may have to be recalled to the witness stand later.

"Did you ever make a statement that if you needed a reason (to pull them over) you would find one?" Mr. Bailey asked.

"No," Mr. Fuhrman responded.

"Did you say at any time that recruiting station in the presence of any female, including Kathleen Bell, that you would like nothing more than to see all niggers gathered together and killed?"

"No," the detective replied.

Mr. Fuhrman denied not only ever having met Ms. Bell but also that he was ever introduced by her at a restaurant to a friend named Andrea Terry.

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On peace and promises

DURING HIS short visit to the Kingdom earlier this week, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher spoke eloquently of his country's commitment to supporting Jordan. America's promises to the Kingdom, he said emphatically, will be fulfilled.

While we are heartened by Mr. Christopher's assurances, we cannot help wondering whether the U.S. has not been taking its time in fulfilling President Bill Clinton's pledges of support for this country, whether those he made on Oct. 26 or before and after.

To the dismay of many who opted to have faith in the U.S. promises to the Kingdom, a decision by a House of Representatives' Subcommittee was taken to dramatically reduce the amount of debt forgiveness the administration has pledged to the Kingdom for this year. But the Senate can act to reverse that decision and we hope that it will in order to allow the administration to deliver on its pledges.

In the final analysis, it is a vital American interest for the U.S. as a whole to maintain its credibility as a mediator and partner in the region, especially if Washington wants to see Israel make peace with all its Arab neighbours.

When the Kingdom signed the peace treaty with Israel, it acted to meet one of its strategic interests, it is true. But that interest can only be of benefit to others when peace is established in the whole Middle East region. Now, such comprehensive peace will not be made if other Arab countries are not willing to take the necessary risks for it — and they certainly will not be encouraged to do so if Jordan is allowed to be left out in the cold in as far as American support for it is concerned.

Building peace, as distinct from making it, is a task that should be shouldered by the entire international community. Jordan will indeed lose if this peace collapses. That loss, however, will not be exclusive to the Kingdom. Europe will lose, Asia and Africa will too; so will the U.S. which has invested a tremendous amount of time and effort in the peace making process so far.

For the cause of building this peace, economic assistance to Jordan must come fast. People need to believe that peace is making a difference. Because if they do not, they will have less reasons to support it. On the other hand, the Syrians, the Lebanese and the Palestinians, among others, need to look ahead and see some promise that life will be better if they too decide to take their chances. After all, a peace that people would not support cannot be a peace in the making.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Wednesday said demands by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to find a substitute solution to the problem of displaced Palestinians emphasises Israel's unscrupulousness in the peace-making process despite the peace treaties it signed with Arab countries. Mazen Hijazi said Mr. Peres' use of the term "substitute solutions" comes after burying "the substitute homeland" expression after the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. This shows that whenever there were attempts to end Israeli aspirations to dominate at the expense of others, new Israeli ambitions and designs arise, the writer said. This also proves that the Israelis are still working on evicting the Palestinians from their homeland through various means and are still hoping that the Arab countries would find a solution and pay the price for Israeli practices as if the Arab states were the ones which asked the Palestinians to leave their land and took them by force from there, added the writer. He said if Israel maintains this mentality then it is possible that it would ask the Arab states to compensate the refugees and displaced Palestinians after it publicly called for settling them as was expressed in the speech by Mr. Peres, who believes the issue is not a question of a right to return or compensation, but a humanitarian problem which the Arab countries and the industrialised nations should help in solving. What is shocking in these statements is that they were made by Mr. Peres, not by the Israeli hardliners or the Likud Party, the writer concluded.

AL DUSTOUR Arabic daily said in its editorial Wednesday that the visit by British Prime Minister John Major to Jordan was a great political event for the Kingdom, which sees in the United Kingdom a good friend with which it has strong historical, cultural and commercial ties. Welcoming Mr. Major, the newspaper voiced hope that his visit would contribute to enhancing cooperation between the two countries and serving their common interests. The paper said the distinguished status the United Kingdom enjoys in the Middle East can enable Mr. Major to play a more active role in supporting the peace process and removing obstacles facing it.

The View from Academia

Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubah

Unhealthy attitudes produce unhealthy institutions

ONE OF the many obstacles standing in the way of effective performance at the vast majority of our institutions (both public and private) is the institutions' overall attitude towards the work they do and the business they conduct. Just as individuals suffer at times from bad or unhealthy attitudes, so do institutions. At present, this is a very serious problem in our society.

In the late seventies, fresh out of college, I was employed by one of our public, and somewhat more "prestigious" and "attractive," establishments. The section I worked in was, in many ways, quite sensitive and vital, aiming to keep the public informed about what goes on locally and in the rest of the world — a very challenging job. To me, the work was indeed exciting, enriching and fulfilling, and I did my best to learn the art of the trade and assert my presence and impact.

The most frustrating part of the experience, however, came not from the work itself but from the people I was working with. We were about twenty people in all. To be honest, one must admit that three of them were not only nice people, courteous, humble, and cheerful but also supportive, helpful, encouraging, efficient, committed, conscientious, serious and impressive. The rest were not. Most spent their time gossiping, joking, complaining, going to the cafeteria, procrastinating work (some even refusing to do it, saying they are unhappy with the institution and why should they do any work for it), etc.

What bothered me most was their attitude towards their work and towards their colleagues. They had no motivation to work, no appreciation if what they were doing, no commitment, no sense of mission or calling, no respect for the institution, no care about the public they were supposed to address and serve. One of them kept saying that when the time came for him to resign, and he was intending to resign any moment (he claimed), he was going to submit his resignation on the back of a pack of cigarettes, for why waste valuable paper? (By the way, he is still working at the establishment and is still threatening to resign). They made fun of each other, fought with others and with themselves (at times physically), swore, complained, complained, and so on.

The situation was and still is to a great extent similar at most of our institutions, especially in the public sector. Generally, employees have a very low opinion of their jobs, of their institutions, and of themselves, ultimately.

Naturally, the work they perform is not best-hearted,

inefficient, uncreative, mediocre and poor. This is the first damage they do. If society is to develop, thrive and excel through the conscientious efforts and distinguished performance of its institutions, how is our society to develop, thrive and excel with individuals such as those described here continually attacking its immunity system, precisely like the AIDS virus? It is noteworthy to affirm here that the

number of employees at our institutions who hold poor values and poor attitudes is quite substantial. One will be exaggerating to say that such employees (at the various levels of the institutional hierarchical structure) are a comfortable majority. Unfortunately, our institutions (after all such people are in many cases the institutions) not only tolerate them but they also reward and promote them.

The second level of damage they do is seen through their bad influence on other employees. How is a graduate fresh out of college (in most cases ready to work and learn, enthusiastic to develop and perform, and excited about public service) to survive, develop and excel in such a dreary environment? Next to impossible? What is going to happen to the good minority who is doing its best to perform decently? Are they not going to be vexed, frustrated, marginalised, suppressed, alienated, and even forced to resign? Or they may just become cynical and sarcastic themselves and just "sell it." I once heard a "senior" administrator giving advice to an aspiring young administrator. He said to him, summing his twenty years of experience at our public institutions as an "expert" administrator: "In every department or section under you there are two to three workaholics. Give these the major bulk of the work and your department or section will be okay."

"What do you mean by workaholics?" asked the aspiring administrator of the wise guru. "Donkeys who cannot live if there is no work to do." Well, if hardworking people are viewed as donkeys by some of our "masterminds," one does not wonder why we have so few hardworking people at our public institutions.

Of course, not all of our institutions suffer from such unhealthy attitudes. After all, institutions are people, and wherever there is a team of decent individuals running an establishment, there is distinction and excellence. Yes, there are many distinguished teams at many of our institutions, and they are doing a superb job. But there are the others.

Another point to emphasize is that unhealthy institution attitudes are present in every country in the world. I heard over the BBC a few years ago a British MP, female and black, complain about the same matter: "What bothers me most is not the racism, nor is it the sexism. Rather, I am vexed by the parliament's amateurish, carefree attitude. People are not serious enough or committed enough." The difference, however, is that such attitudes are more prevalent and widespread in our society than they are in many others.

The causes of the problem in our society are numerous. I wish to cite three of them.

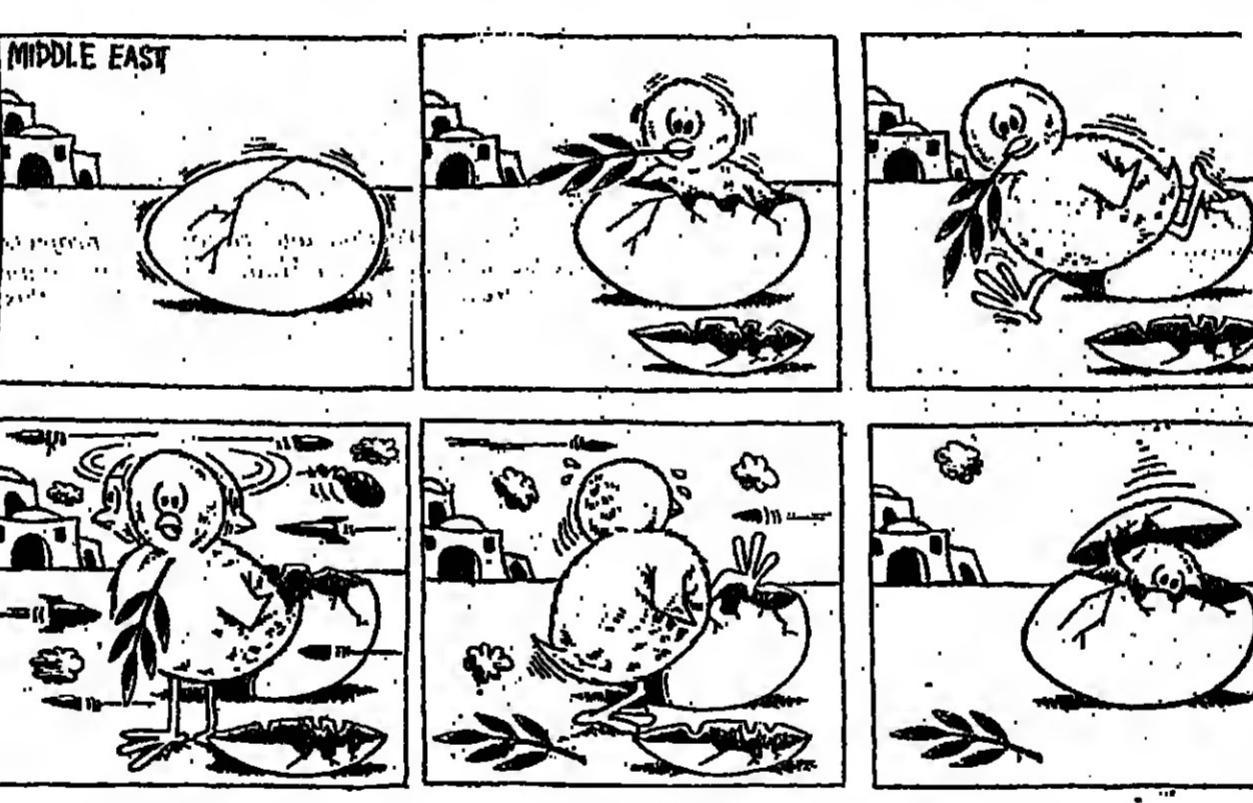
In the good old days of the seventies and early eighties, the days when attractive job opportunities in the private sector and in neighbouring countries offered

themselves abundantly, our best university graduates and our most competitive employees (we should say most of them, perhaps), sought opportunities in the private sector and in the said neighbouring countries. What were our institutions left with? Generally, the less competitive individuals. I was shocked a few years ago when I found out that a former classmate of mine who always failed English was a teacher of English at one of our secondary schools. Similar examples abound.

There is something seriously wrong with our criteria of hiring and promotion. Until now, we do not (except once every blue moon) appoint individuals on the basis of their past academic or service excellence. Until now, favouritism and waste play a major role in final decisions about employment, and at times in a very rude and irresponsible way. I know that there is favouritism and there is waste all over the world. But they are nowhere as widespread as they are in our society. This is one. The other thing is, one will understand it if an influential person seeks the employment of an acquaintance if he/she is sure this acquaintance is excellent, very good or good. But to speak and pull strings for a poor candidate (at times even an idiot), this is intolerable. Society will pay, and is already paying, the price.

But we inherit the problem from the environment in our society at large. The root of it are in the way we are brought up and educated. Our families, our schools, and our universities do not encourage us (in meaningful ways, that is; forget the rhetoric!) to be diligent, conscientious, committed, hardworking, proud of what we do, appreciative of our jobs. I do not think that there is in our culture an equivalent to the concepts of "career" and "calling." We may find an approximate synonym somewhere in a dictionary, but certainly not in our daily language and in our present-day culture.

The solution? Well, I am not hopeful that there will be a speedy solution for the problem is quite huge. We may have to wait until the wheel of history turns and turns us with it. But the immediate solution is primarily in the hands of our legislative and executive authorities. We have to seriously reconsider the ways we hire and promote. Let's not say the right man or woman for the right job. This sounds too ideal and too much of a cliché to make sense. Let's, rather, say the following: We want to start choosing for the more sensitive and delicate and important jobs the more excelling, the more competitive, and the more promising. This is not so difficult to do, if we trouble ourselves about it a little. We do not want to throw the less competitive people, the poor, and the mediocre into the sea. God forbid. Let them make a buck in the world like everybody else. But let them shape up a little, work a little, and change their attitude a little. And let's not appoint them in jobs which they are not a match to.



The noisy foreign policy debate in America is dangerously fuzzy

By Flora Lewis

PARIS — The debate on America's role in the world is gathering steam, but it makes a shrill and sometimes hollow whistle. Other countries ask with concern if the United States is withdrawing — or, more ominously, some are preparing to seek advantage in what may become newly available space.

And yet, pretty much across the spectrum of American opinion there is a call for the United States to be robustly assertive of its "national interest." The trouble comes in defining it. The definition gets fuzzier the closer the speakers get to specifics.

In his recent foreign policy speech, President Bill Clinton appealed above all for the kind of bipartisanship that prevailed at the end of World War II, in the period of organising policies and institutions that Dean Acheson called "the creation."

Administration views and the Republican leadership's response were laid out in more detail in the new issue of Foreign Policy magazine by Secretary of State Warren Christopher and the Senate Majority leader Bob Dole. There was some sharp sniping here and there, but beneath the polemics there is a remarkable parallel in what the two

sides say is essential.

President Clinton warns against the "ripple of isolationism" that he sees emerging from both left and right.

Mr. Dole speaks out

against those "on the left

who believe America will

corrupt the world and on

the right who believe the

world will corrupt Ameri-

cum." But, he says, "the fact

is that America must re-

main firmly engaged in the

world. If we do not protect

our interests, no one else...

will do the job for us."

Mr. Christopher lays

down four guiding strate-

gic principles: "American

leadership, productive rela-

tions with the world's most

powerful states, lasting in-

stitutions, and democracy

and human rights."

The United States will try

to work with other powers, he

says. But "when we dis-

agree, we will vigorously

defend our interests and

our principles, and we will

not countenance any na-

tions of spheres of influ-

ence."

In his recent foreign

policy speech, President

Bill Clinton

warns against

isolationism

and the kind of world it

wants to shape. The noise is

confusing Americans as

well as friends and adver-

saries. But there is less

there than meets the ear.

The purpose is essentially

to draw lines for the Ameri-

can political battle and

make them look as clear as

on domestic issues. But it is

unfortunate, and can be

seriously misleading.

China, for example, assiduously

building a blue water navy,

is talking about a western Pacific without the

United States, and France

is pushing furiously for

trade with Iraq (as well as

Iran) on the expectation

that the United States will

renounce U.N. embargos.

The notion that America

doesn't care and will soon

go home can cause a lot of trouble.

Washington's apparent

indifference (on both sides

of the political divide)

to the weakness of the dollar

compounds the difficulty.

The United States will not

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A

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Iraqi artists in Amman: Trouble or fortune?

By Mohammad Masharqa

HUNDREDS OF prominent Iraqi artists and intellectuals, among them experts who enjoy Arab and international reputation for their outstanding work in different fields, fled their country to Jordan in protest against war, dictatorship, and abuse of human rights after the Gulf War. Their high concentration in Amman and to a lesser extent in other cities and their attempt to integrate into the society triggered different responses from Jordanian intellectuals.

While some Jordanians established strong ties and open channels for mutual cooperation and common projects with their Iraqi colleagues, others took a defensive position and viewed their Iraqi peers' presence as a threat and obstacle to an independent indigenous cultural movement.

Wars have always been a cause for cultural migrations and new cultural inputs in the countries of destination opened possibilities for radical changes and outstanding innovations in different fields. The French cultural movement witnessed a period of



Iraqi artist Amer Fatahi

relative renaissance in this century when many Spanish artists opposed to the regime of General Franco took exile in France. America had a similar influx of European philosophers, thinkers and artists following and during this century's two great wars. A Jordanian daily recently commented that "the phenomenon of Iraqi fine art invasion is getting uncontrollable. We have to put an end to this invasion, since it is ingenuine and violate the rights and needs of the local artists."

It seems that many intellectuals share this point of view. "The sudden gallery expansion in the capital is created to accommodate Iraqi artists' work only. Once they leave, the galleries will close down."

The prominent Iraqi art critic and painter, Amer Fatahi, who resides temporarily in Amman, regrets such attitudes.

"We left our country in protest against war and dictatorship. We are going through hard psychological, financial and political pressures in order to uphold our values which can make a difference one day. Our means of expression is art and accumulated experience in the field. We wish to have the chance to share it with our Jordanian hosts," he said.

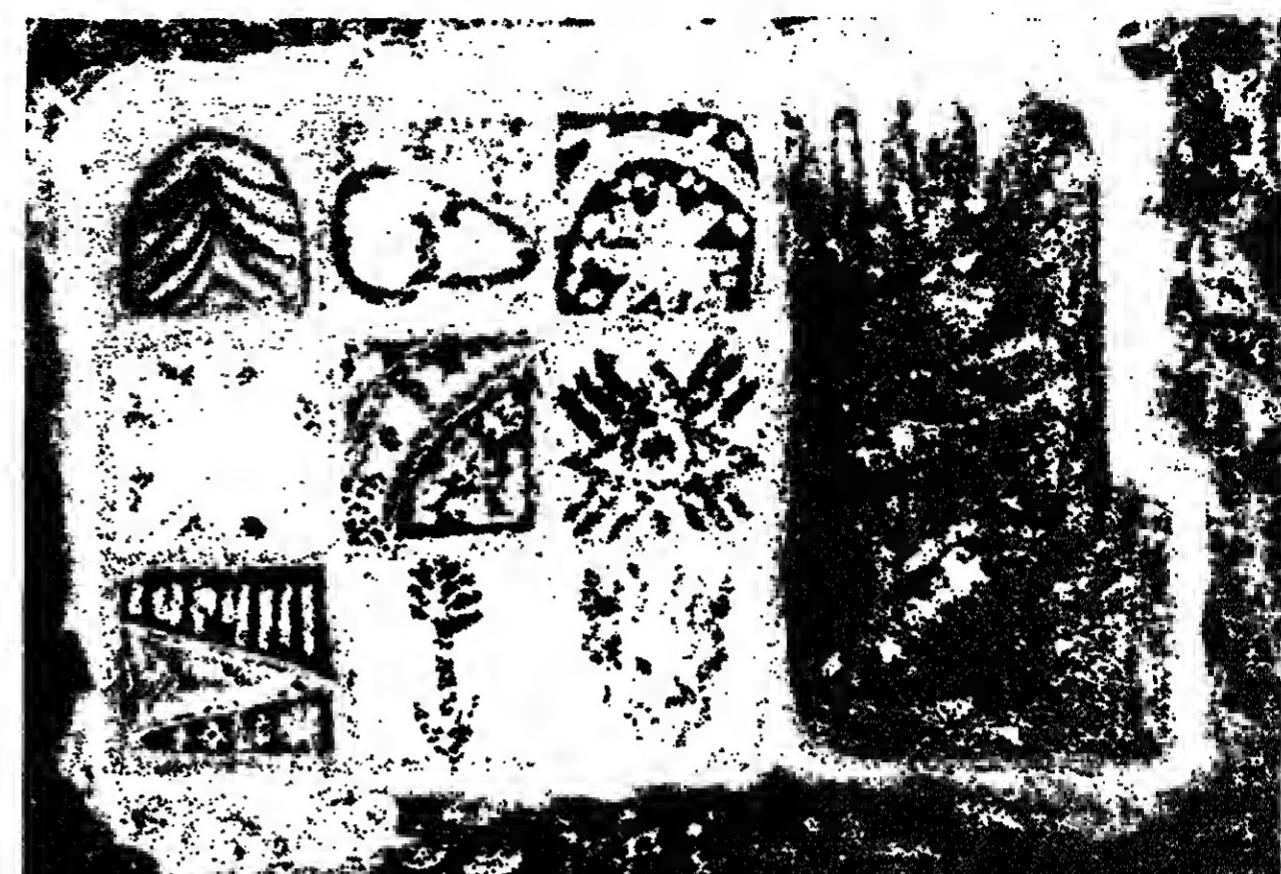
Fatahi, who for years edited the art page in the Iraqi magazine Funun, complained that the Jordanian dailies do not give the chance to Iraqi art critics to contribute, which, he says, "gives them no chance for the effective cultural interaction."

Some Jordanians agree.

"The Iraqi art critics have a long tradition in art criticism, which is not the situation in Jordan. Why don't we learn from their experience and open channels for constructive cooperation?" Mohammed Majali, a Jordanian painter, who paid tribute to Iraqi art, said.

While many artists share Majali's opinion, what is obvious at most of the discussions over the issue is that there are many who insist that the local art movement should develop independently and exploit its own potentials.

What is obvious, though, is that in order to develop a dynamic and multidimensional cultural movement, the media should open its channels for



One of the paintings by Amer Fatahi recently exhibited in Amman

the contributions of the different parties and should encourage open discussion about the issue at hand. Cultural and educational institutions should also sponsor workshops which would allow for cultural exchange and interaction. Isolation and negativism should be confronted at all levels through enlightened media and cultural programmes.

The Jordanian society is going through critical and transitional stage in search of an identity. This new

identity seeks to express itself through various creative media and to protect its purity and natural development from external interferences. This is understood provided that legitimate fears should lead it into a corner.

The phenomenon of caution in itself is not unhealthy. After all it is through such diversity of opinions and stands, often extreme, that culture and new ideas blossom.

SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

Tourism vs pilgrimage: 'Unruly' Israelis tarnish majority's image

ISRAELI TOURISM to Jordan took a beating in the Jordanian as well as the international press last week with articles condemning incidents of reported Israeli abuses this side of the river. Jordanian tabloids blasted Israeli tourists in articles which said that no sooner had these tourists started to visit sites in Jordan than several problems began to emerge. Stating that the tourists were "tampering" with these sites, one tabloid cited the controversy over a report that a group of orthodox Israeli pilgrims desecrated a religious site near Petra. The weekly, Shihan, said that even Radio Israel "admitted" that these pilgrims deleted inscriptions on the tomb of Aaron, the brother of Moses, and wrote obscenities and historical lies in Hebrew on the walls of the site. Shihan also reported that even at Mount Nebo, some Israeli tourists have written in the visitors register that the site has an important archaeological significance for Jews and that there will come a day when it will be under Israeli sovereignty. As if to back our tabloids' reports, in the latest issue of Britain's Sunday Times, Andy Goldberg, writing from Tel Aviv, reported that "Israeli officials were quick to censure what the press called 'Israel's ugly tourists.'" Goldberg, who while trying to do good, unfortunately included some major factual inaccuracies in his article, added that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had said, "There are Israelis whose behaviour shames us and we must condemn them." But, Goldberg continued, "Tourism bosses (in Israel) point out that it is only a small, unruly minority who tarnish the name of masses of law-abiding Israeli tourists." He mentioned that the Israeli tourism ministry is preparing a Hebrew guidebook "targeted at the badly behaved." But the point of Goldberg's piece was as his headline read: "Israeli tourist hordes disturb the Middle East peace." According to Goldberg, "The sheer volume of Israeli tourists is part of the problem, especially" -- and here is one of the writer's lapses -- "at spectacular Petra, a 10,000-year-old centre of Nabatean culture." Saying that, some believe that Israeli tourism could prove to be a real threat to the peace accord, Goldberg quotes a Muhammad El Duhab, who he identifies as Jordan's minister of economy, as saying "The behaviour of some of the Israelis in Jordan is likely to endanger the peace. This behaviour, if it continues, could lead to the closure of all tourist sites in Jordan to the Israelis." Asked to comment on Jordanian tabloids' and The Sunday Times' articles, Minister of Tourism Abdul Ilah Al Khatib said, "I would like to highlight that the site in question in Petra is that of a mosque built in the 14th century by a Mamluki Sultan, Nasser Mohammad. The ministry is denying nothing. There was indeed an incident of misconduct, and, as anywhere, we expect that visitors to our country would behave appropriately and with respect." The minister added that at a recent, press conference in Berlin, Israeli Minister of Tourism Uzi Baran publicly apologised for what was seen by both sides as an individual incident and not a general trend by Israeli tourists. As for any controversy stemming from a decision to limit access to the site, the minister explained that the trail to the mosque is quite perilous, and that is why the ministry decided to restrict guided tours to two per week with an average of 20

visitors per tour. The minister, whose smoke-free ministry does not go unnoticed, candidly pointed out that tourism was the objective here, not pilgrimages which could bode much less positively for the industry.



Indonesian Ambassador to Jordan Mohammad Hassan Adamy, sitting with his wife, Tjut Adja Marzani and his children (standing from left) Hasduna Putri, Namzarika and Mayuzar

QUIET IN BUSY JAKARTA: News from Indonesia, where politeness and grace abound, speaks of change on the diplomatic front. Ending his four-year tour of duty in Jordan and returning to Jakarta, possibly to retire, Indonesian Ambassador Muhammad Hasan Adamy will bid farewell to associates and friends this week at a reception he and his wife Tjut Adja Marzani are hosting tonight at the Regency Palace Hotel. The 62-year-old envoy began his foreign service career in 1957. His first foreign posting was to Tunisia from 1961 to 1964. Mr. Adamy has served also in Hungary, Guinea, Vietnam, and Madagascar. His first ambassadorial tour of duty was to Senegal, The Gambia, the Ivory Coast and Gabon, with residence in Dakar. The couple, we are sure, will be missed by their many friends and associates in Amman.

MIVAN MAN IN MAJOR VAN: Restoration is the aim of Mivan Ltd. This is the Irish firm that was contracted to conduct the delicate restoration work on the Dome of Rock in Jerusalem. Completed last summer, the work, which was funded by a \$8 million contribution from His Majesty King Hussein, was part of the

major reconstruction and restoration projects overseen by Mivan Ltd. Chairman Ivan McCabrey, McCabrey arrived in Amman this week along with the illustrious group of 30 businesspersons who accompanied British Prime Minister John Major on his first Middle East tour since becoming prime minister. Mivan has conducted extensive works in the Middle East including hotel and housing projects in Saudi Arabia. One of its more notable feats was the restoration of the luxury liner The Q. E. II. While in Jordan, McCabrey was expected to explore business prospects in the area. The restoration of the Dome of the Rock, however, could turn out to be its most prestigious and history-making accomplishment. The almost conspicuous quick whirl through the region of the British delegation seems less so when we note that St. Patrick's Day falls tomorrow and more than a few lads and lasses among the team would be at a loss without "a fiddle to jig to and a jar of Guinness to sup."

MEDIA MOGULS FROM FRANCE: While the British Isles brought in business heavy weights, the French landed a large contingent of media moguls under the flag of "Le Press Club de France." In the area for a tour of Israel and Jordan were club Director General Michel Fernet and Director of Information Isabelle Bourdet, Jeanne Assouly of France Television VSD. Philippe Duigou in charge of Service Etrangers et Tourism for Le Monde, Christian Hoche, editor-in-chief of world news for L'Express, Françoise Laborde, editor-in-chief of economic news for France 2, Mac LeCarpenter, editor-in-chief of Telerama, Christian Luc Parison, in charge of tourism service for Le Figaro, Claude Serillon, in charge of "Geopolis" for France 2, Jean Marc Sylvestre, chief of the economic service for T.F.1, Marie Boinet of Group S.E.T., Jean Claude Boucher of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Patrick Jung, director of development for Afica and the Middle East at Groupe ACCOR, Alain Mouysset, of Chandris Celebrity Cruises, and a Mr. Yosha of the Israel Tourism Office and Mrs. Yosha, who is accompanied by Mrs. de Luca of the Jordan Tourism Office in France. The ministries of Information and Tourism, as well as Royal Jordanian are hosting the French delegation who are here on a "familiarisation trip." A dinner hosted in the group's honour last night was attended by members of international and local press corps, and other invited guests.

FLYING HIGH: Accomplishments were recorded on the national level too at the 1995 Travel Industry Globe Awards which brought leaders of all sectors of the travel industry together to honour the recipients of the Travel Industry Globe Awards. Among the attendees was Royal Jordanian's very own Regional Dir./UK and Ireland Alrid Quntar who relayed the news to home base that Royal Jordanian placed among the top four candidates for the "Best Airline to the Middle East" category. The winner was Emirates, and the other two

contenders were British Airways and Gulf Air. The occasion, according to Alrid Quntar, gave RJ great publicity, and should set the stage for a big win next year.



Air Canada's En Route magazine Editor-in-Chief Lise Ravary (right) and Canadian photographer Jean Becq

MAKING FRONT PAGE: While speaking of air travel publicity, Air Canada's in-flight magazine editor-in-chief Lise Ravary arrived in Amman accompanied by world-renowned Canadian photographer Jean Becq for a 10-day visit to Jordan. Their mission: reveal Jordan's treasures to Air Canada passengers. Jordan will be the feature destination on the cover of April's "en Route" magazine, seen worldwide by more than 12 million travelers each year. The story will occupy at least 14 pages of the new, revamped in-flight magazine, published in Montreal. "With peace coming to Jordan," says Ravary, "more and more North American visitors will want to discover your wonderful Kingdom. We are here to increase awareness of Jordan as a wonderful adventure destination for world-class travelers." Ravary and Becq visited Amman, Petra, Wadi Rum and Aqaba before crossing the border to Eilat for 24 hours, "to experience the new freedom of travel between the two neighboring countries." "We were absolutely enthralled by Petra," says Becq. "We went everywhere, from the High Place of Sacrifice to see the sunrise to the Monastery for sunset. It was simply amazing to photograph." Wadi Rum, for the Canadian visitors also proved to be a wonderful experience. They slept under a Bedouin tent and explored the wadi with young Musleh Salem Lafeh, who, they say, just might find his photo on the cover of the magazine. Before leaving Jordan, Ravary and Becq promised they would return with their families for a holiday. What will they miss most? "Although Jordan is very, very beautiful," they say, "its main resource is its people. The Jordanian people were incredibly nice and hospitable. We will never forget them." Guiding Ravary and Becq throughout their trip, in what can be termed "brotherly interline ties," was RJ's Mohammad Nasser of Public Relations.

Jennifer Hamarneh

Who's 'bug free?'

By Jean-Claude Elias

A bug is not what you think it is. Or is it? If you have been using a Personal Computer (PC) for a while chances are that you have heard of software bugs. Simply put it is a programming, unintentional error. It could also be just a weakness, preventing the product from behaving exactly as the user expects it to, according to plain logic.

For example, if a programme runs out of memory, a message on the screen, alerting the operator about the problem should be displayed before the system stops. Alas, it is not always the case.

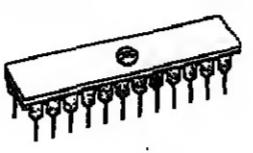
Bugs can be gross and obvious. They would often interrupt the normal execution of the programme or even produce wrong results. Commercially released products however do not contain such evident flaws. Nevertheless, minor, well hidden bugs can exist even in well known software. These could remain dormant as long as the segment to which they belong is not activated. If the function or the section of the programme in which they are rarely used, they may never show.

Novice programmers hardly succeed in writing a bug-free piece of software from the first time. Even if the work is short and simple, it would usually undergo a debugging process consisting of testing the programme by running it, locating the errors and then eliminating them.

Professionals who write large pieces of code (another name for a source programme) still produce such errors. Software has become so complicated and huge that generating a completely bug-free work would be a remarkable achievement. Without going too technical, I will just cite Microsoft Excel 5.0 — its main file alone is five million characters, not to mention other related files and Windows that all work in conjunction with it. At times, one may have as much as 10 million characters all interacting simultaneously. How can anyone guarantee the absolute purity of such an amount of data?

PC crashes therefore do occur. You may be

chip talk



enjoying a computer session and suddenly, without a warning, the machine may freeze and stop working. The only way out is to reset the PC by switching it off then on again. Naturally, any unsaved data (not previously saved on a disk) is lost. If you're lucky, a message may pop up on the screen telling you what happened.

An infamous such message is the "General Protection Fault" (GPF) that Windows sometimes produces. It could happen because you are trying to run too many programmes simultaneously. It could also be due to a totally unpredictable fault in the system's handling of the extended memory. There is not much to do in such cases but shut the computer off and... try smiling.

The GPF is very rare. I use my PC extensively — several hours a day, seven days a week — and it has happened to me only once this year. Even then I did not lose much work for I had saved the file I was working on just a couple of minutes before the crash.

All bugs do not necessarily lead to sudden computer shut off. Most of them produce minor inconvenience. WordPerfect 5.1 for instance, does not eject pages properly when used with a LaserJet II compatible printer.

We have no choice but to try and adapt to software weaknesses, remembering that these are, by far, outweighed by its advantage and qualities. Besides, working with information technology is like life itself — you never have 100 per cent guarantee on anything.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuaib

FASCINATING FACTS

* The first playing cards were invented about 600 years ago, but no-one knows who the inventor was. The symbols of each suit stand for the different social classes of the 14th century, while the picture cards represent various historical figures. The first packs produced contained 78 cards but that many proved too difficult to handle. The Joker was the super trump and was the only one of the old pack to survive when the number was trimmed down.

* * *

* Males are more prone to colour blindness than females. In fact, 1 in 200 females suffer against 1 in 12 men. Usually a sufferer cannot distinguish between such colours as yellow and light green. Some people are fully colourblind — all colours appear in shades of black and white.

* * *

* The more you move your muscles, the more they produce a fluid called "sarcolectic acid" which gathers around the muscle, making it "tired". When you sleep or rest, your body rids itself of this acid, repairs your joints and recharges your nerve cells.

* * *

* Does a spoonful of sugar keep the "hiccups" down? Yes, it's true. It has been proven that it can work on some people.

TIME FOR FUN

■ A man wore the table cloth round his neck while having his lunch at a renowned restaurant. The owner of the restaurant asked the waiter to draw tactfully the customer's attention to change the position of the towel. The waiter politely bowed to the man and said: "Excuse me, sir. Do you want to get your hair cut or shave?"

■ Milton, who was blind, married a wild sharp-tongued woman. It happened one day that he heard Duke of Buckingham describe her as being a rose. The poet at once said: "I thought my blindness is unable to distinguish its colour, it must actually be a rose since I feel its thorns prick my sides every day."

■ FATHER: When George Washington was at your age, he used to work much and earn a lot.

SON: ... and when he was as old as you are now, he was the president of the USA!

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- You're a luck fellow. *Inasha shakhson mazooz*
- Your father is an honest man. *Abooks rajulon ameen*
- Why are you angry? *Limatha ants ghassidib*
- She's the queen of my heart. *Inasha malikato qalbi*
- You're a stubborn human being. *Inasha insaanon ameed*
- She saved his career. *Angathat mustaqbalahu*
- Such was the result of his efforts. *Haathchi nateejato juhoodihi*
- Make yourself at home. *Khoz knamel rasbatika kama law konta fee manzilki*

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE YES OR NO

1. Are mongooses immune to snake venom?
2. Were salamanders once believed to be able to live in fire?

GAMES YOUR LUCKY NUMBER

Numerology is extremely fantastic and amusing. Take, for instance, your own name and see what number it is equal to. You will be able to do this in the following way: A stands for one, B for two, C for three and so on. When you reach I, which is 9, commence again and give J the value of one, then continue. To make all this clear, we will set out the values of the complete alphabet:

1 = A J S	2 = B K T
3 = C L U	4 = D M V
5 = E N W	6 = F O X
7 = G P Y	8 = H Q Z
9 = I R —	

Thus, suppose your name is JOAN SHIRLEY, the letters resolve themselves in to the following numbers:

J O A N	S H I R L E Y
$1+6+1+5+$	$1+8+9+9+3+5+7+$
55	= 55 = 10 = 1 + 0 = 1

From all that we have said, it will be clear that the birthdate may be used for finding the personal number, or the letters of the name may be. On rare occasions, the two ways will provide the same number. When this is the case, great faith should be placed in that number. But, when the two ways give different numbers, What? Does one disprove the other? Not a bit of it. You simply have two numbers favourite to you.

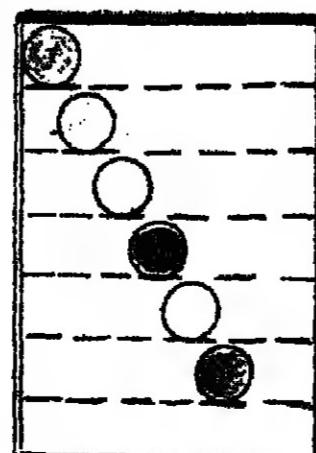
PUZZLES

A FLOATER

This planet is 95 times heavier than the planet Earth, but if it could be placed in water, it would float. Which planet is it?

Answer each clue and the diagonal line of circles will spell out the planet.

- When the sun goes down
- Takes pictures
- Mom
- On rainy days the sky is full of...
- The Amazon and the Nile are...
- We breathe this gas to live



The madman's manifesto

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

It is very reassuring to know that there are still people around us who sense the predicaments that the Jordanian society is going through. One such illuminating thought came from the daily *Al Ra'i* newspaper columnist Tareq Masarweh where he yearned for reviving the gentler aspects of the Jordanian way of life of the 1940s. Part of what inspired him to write what he wrote was a book. The book by the Jordanian writer Abdel Rahman Munif, *A Biography of a City: Amman in the 1940s*.

I am quite certain that there is a lot of scope in our present ways of life to accommodate what both these writers are advocating. Personally, I have long since come to genuinely believe that our present social trends can only lead us to terrible things. And that seeking refuge in such writings is one way of escaping the present condition.

About the book itself, Munif tells us that it is not meant to be a record of Amman's history in the 1940s but should rather be taken as a "parallel" reading, one through the eyes of a person who lived in that period of time. He writes that he believes it useful to describe, how he saw things and how he knew or got to know them without referring to the accepted version of history. Hence making the whole exercise more stimulating and revealing through uncalculated explorations.

But while an author cannot force others to see people and places as he saw them or as he or she would have liked to see them, there are certain times when a passing glimpse of the past can shake people out of a callous way of existence that has long since dominated their life.

Unmistakably, our way of life has become reckless and cruel. And sadly, we can only sit and watch it become even more so. And this is where the 1940s provide us with the refuge. Those were times when Amman was full of hard working and proud indi-

viduals, where there were neither roads nor cars, neither hospitals nor universities and neither factories nor hotels, and where children walked barefooted, but where people genuinely cared for and respected each other.

So while we should not let reason and reflection control our unconscious expressions and while we should not allow imagination to get strangled by reasoned deliberation, there is always real life. And there is also the relationship between a place and its inhabitants to heed. For a place earns its characteristics through its inhabitants as they shape the spaces and places they inhabit. And the people earn in return certain attributes they would otherwise not have gained had they lived elsewhere.

So where did we go wrong? And there is no point in pretending that everything is alright with us, for the pain in our hearts and the flight of the mind to the past are the symptoms of our present malaise. But again we are trapped for we cannot bring back those older days nor would it be wise to try to revive them. Even so, we must not surrender.

Our children and grandchildren should be taught about the way our fathers and grandfathers lived. We should tell them how Amman was back then: tell them how its old name Philadelphia means brotherly love, tell them about the path of the old river that flowed from Ras Al Ain through to the amphitheatre and Ain Ghazal, tell them about the trees that flourished on both sides of this river, tell them about the flood of 1943, about the great expectations and even greater disappointments, and tell them how Amman turned to the river for life before it eventually turned its back on it when it became a city of concrete.

It is books such as the one by Munif that could get us thinking again about our present predicaments and about the madmen's new manifestoes we are forced to listen to and watch being built day in and day out. For if there is more than one truth then no one has the right answer, so why not listen to no one?

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

10:20 Feature Film — *Freeze Frame*

Starring: Shannen Doherty & Charles Haid

The movie tells the unbelievable tale of how a team of would-be high school reporters expose corporate corruption.

12:00 *The Hidden Room*

Monday, March 20

7:30 *The Bold And The Beautiful*

8:30 Documentary — *Diving In The Red Sea*

9:00 *South Beach*

A bootlegger is tracked down after killing an FBI agent.

10:00 News In English

10:20 *Scarlet And Black*

Julien never stops treading on perilous grounds as he raises a new love affair.

Tuesday, March 21

7:30 *The Bold And The Beautiful*

8:30 Home Improvement

9:10 Documentary — *The Nature Of Things*

A Sky Full Of Planes

The programme exposes statistical facts pertaining to civil aviation in the USA.

10:00 News In English

10:20 *Ernest Hemingway*

This is an autobiographic film depicting the real-life story of the American writer Ernest Hemingway.

Wednesday, March 22

7:30 *The Bold And The Beautiful*

8:30 Documentary — *The Marvelous Machine*

9:00 Berlin Break

At Mac's urging, Willy and Valentin form an uneasy alliance and become professional "expeditors."

10:00 News In English

10:20 *Prism*

A local programme presented by Nida' Ramahi

10:40 *Snowy River*

11:10 *Keeping Up Appearances*

(The programme is presented by Dudley Moore)

Sunday, March 19

7:30 *The Bold And The Beautiful*

8:30 *Almost Home*

9:00 *The Album Show*

9:30 *Heartbeat*

A local programme presented by Maha Addasi

10:00 News In English



Best picture — feel-good Gump or tough Pulp

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Speculation continues in the film community about whether Academy Award voters will favour the feel-good comedy-drama *Forrest Gump* or the provocative, violent *Pulp Fiction* as best picture.

Most critics organisations have favoured *Pulp Fiction*, Quentin Tarantino's hard-bitten gangster saga. But academy members are inclined to be more conservative, and the general feeling is that *Forrest Gump* will prevail.

Also nominated for Best Picture: The British comedy *Four Weddings And A Funeral*; Robert Redford's drama of television's game scandal, *Quiz Show*; and the prison saga *The Shawshank Redemption*.

Along with *The Lion King*, *Forrest Gump* broke the \$300 million mark in domestic ticket

sales.

"These things happen very, very rarely," said the film's director, Robert Zemeckis. "You're always just hoping that you'll make your negative costs back."

The director credits much of the success of *Forrest Gump* to the portrayal by Tom Hanks.

"Tom had the character 90 per cent completed by the end of rehearsals," Zemeckis said, "and he soon finished the rest. So by the time we came to the important scenes on the bus-stop bench, he was prepared. We purposely scheduled that in mid-shooting so he would be ready."

The most talked-about scenes in *Forrest Gump* were the hero's meetings at the White House with Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. They had been

written into the script, but how to film them? Computer magic to the rescue. Hanks' image was injected into archival footage.

Another piece of computer magic was removing Gary Sinise's lower legs after his on-screen wounding in Vietnam.

The saga of *Pulp Fiction* dates back to 1986, when Tarantino was trying to write movie scripts while working in a video store. He decided to write short films like the stories in old pulp crime magazines. One of the stories became his directorial debut, *Reservoir Dogs*. Another was *Pulp Fiction*.

"Studios didn't go for it," recalled producer Lawrence Bender. "But we had six offers from so-called independents. Miramax is so aggressive that we went with them.

"All they asked was if it had to be that long (2 1/2

hours). We said yes. They wanted an R rating, of course, but we had planned for an R rating all along."

Tarantino was able to attract a stellar cast. "All of the actors worked on a 'favoured nations' basis, meaning they received the same fee, plus a percentage of the profits," said Bender. With the film toppling an \$85 million domestic gross, the actors should be enjoying additional checks.

Quiz Show had been in development for years by Barry Levinson's Baltimore Pictures before Redford read a script in 1993. He was immediately intrigued by the tale of the scandals that ruined careers and disillusioned Americans in the late 1950s. He joined his Wildwood Enterprises with Baltimore and co-

produced and directed the film.

The casting of the role of Charles Van Doren, the scion of literary family

who confessed he cheated as a quiz contestant, presented problems.

"We had gone through the list of young American actors, but it was hard to find one who could be patrician and have depth and pain," co-producer Michael Nozik said.

An English agent suggested Ralph Fiennes, and he came to New York

from Poland, where he was filming *Schindler's List*. Redford had seen a little of his television work, but not much. Redford says he saw in his eyes the pain and the vulnerability and the intelligence.

Quiz Show played well in urban areas, but failed to catch a wide audience, grossing only \$24 million

domestically. The film was criticised by survivors of the scandals, who said it contained many inaccuracies.

Said Kozik: "I think the film captured the essence of those moments. It never purported to be a documentary. Time was condensed. Characters were combined, as is done in historical pieces. The spirit of that time was accurately captured and related."

Like *Pulp Fiction*, *The Shawshank Redemption* took a long time to reach the screen. Frank Darabont bought the rights to the Stephen King novella in 1987, but didn't get around to writing a script until four or five years.

"Finally, the day came when I knew I had to either put up or shut up," the writer-director recalled. "I sat down and wrote

it in about eight weeks and got the project up at *Casta Rock* in a very short time."

Shawshank (the name of the prison) tells of two lifers, played by Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman, who learn to survive in the brutal conditions of a Maine prison. The movie performed disappointingly in its release last year, though it returns to the screen this week.

Four Weddings And A Funeral was a surprise nominee as best picture since comedies rarely receive Academy Award consideration. The film scored a rousing domestic gross of \$53 million and made a box-office star of Hugh Grant. He played a charming, maladroit bachelor who balked at matrimony.

About his newfound fame: "You have to remember it's unusual for me to even have a job, let alone to have a success or get a prize. I assume (*Four Weddings*) would be a turkey, like all my other films."

Jodie Foster could win Best Actress for speaking unknown language

By Bob Thomas
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Sophia Loren woo her Academy Award speaking Italian. Jane Wyman and Marlene Dietrich won theirs by not speaking at all. Could Jodie Foster be chosen the best lead actress of 1994 by talking a language no one understands?

Foster is nominated for her role in *Nell* as the isolated mountain woman whose speech followed the pattern of her stroke-impaired mother. Also nominated for the 67th Academy Awards are Jessica Lange, the troubled army wife of *Blue Sky*; Miranda Richardson, T.S. Eliot's mentally disturbed first wife in *Tom And Viv*; Winona Ryder, the spunky Jo in *Little Women*; and Susan Sarandon, the tenacious lawyer in *The Client*.

Foster could win her third Oscar. Her first Academy nomination came as Supporting Actress in *Taxi Driver* when she was not yet a teenager. Her transition from child actress to adult was signaled by her Oscars for *The Accused* in 1988 and *The Silence Of The Lambs* in 1991.

Foster wasn't sure she could manage the role of Nell.

"I'm too controlling."

she said, "and you always see too much intelligence in what I do. ... Ultimately, when you get down to it, the greatest thing about this character is that she is entirely emotionally available."

Blue Sky, for which Lange was accorded her sixth academy nomination, had a curious history. The film was made four years ago, then was shelved when Orion Pictures plunged into financial disarray and bankruptcy. The director, Tooy Richardson (Tom Jones), died of AIDS complications in 1991.

As the studio partly recovered from its financial problems, Blue Sky was given a limited release in 1994. Critics responded favourably, especially for Lange's portrait of Tom

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Lange, the troubled army wife of *Blue Sky*; Miranda Richardson, T.S. Eliot's mentally disturbed first wife in *Tom And Viv*; Winona Ryder, the spunky Jo in *Little Women*; and Susan Sarandon, the tenacious lawyer in *The Client*.

Foster could win her third Oscar. Her first Academy nomination came as Supporting Actress in *Taxi Driver* when she was not yet a teenager. Her transition from child actress to adult was signaled by her Oscars for *The Accused* in 1988 and *The Silence Of The Lambs* in 1991.

Foster wasn't sure she could manage the role of Nell.

"I'm too controlling."

March 21

and The Beauty

Improvement

The Nature

of the

Environment

In English

And Black

and White

and the

arts

Features

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MARCH 16-17, 1995 7

On patrol with masked gendarmes

By Robert Fisk

BAD EL OUED, Algiers Comandant Mohammad of the Algiers Gendarmerie studied the graffiti with indifference. Children played in the mud and sewage by the roadside, and dirt had sprayed onto the windows of his armoured Toyota but the words were clear: "The gendarmes and the police are infidels." The commandant shrugged. "We're used to it," he muttered. His comrades most of them in ski-masks and black hoods, ignored the graffiti. It was the least of their worries.

Through the poverty of Algiers we drove in a cordon of green and white land cruisers, Kalashnikovs pointed from the doors of the rear vehicles, between crowds of young men, sometimes hundreds of them who stood in the ordure and garbage that lay piled along the tracks through Chateau Rouge, Cherarba, Gaid Gassim, Eucalyptus, Houaoura. Sometimes we broke into open country, the 15 gendarmes in their green paramilitary uniforms running into the orange orchards around Blida to search young men at gun point — very young men most of them, hands high, faces filled with terror, the muzzles of assault rifles caressing the backs of their necks.

In the fifth of Guy de Constance, we waded ankle-deep through rotting cloth and scrap metal as the gendarmes pursued two other young men who were brought back from the banks of a stinking river with their hands in the air. They were neither beaten nor insulted, but would have been dead if they had moved. Commandant Mohammad looked through their papers as one of his men walked up with a belt-fed machine gun under his arm. "It's OK," he said softly to one of them, "Get going, you were just scared. I understand." And he touched the boy on the shoulder with his hand. We stood there panting with the exertion, the gendarmes in their flak jackets, eyes black and narrow through the slits in their ski-masks. "Go fast, move," the commandant said quietly into his Motorola radio when we had reboarded. "We never leave by the route we came by in case they've prepared an ambush or a bomb for us."

We drove gingerly past a vast crater between the walls of slums, a gas canister of explosives directed at

In streets lost to the government spotters for the Islamist activists are everywhere



'NINJA' IN ACTION: Ski-masked members of Algeria's paramilitary police, known as Ninja, handcuff a 26-year-old Algerian (Photo by Robert Fisk)

another patrol, Comandant Mohammad an inverted tourist guide, pointing out places of dangerous attraction, two gutted supermarkets, a burned-out factory, a row of carbonised trucks belonging to a government cooperative, a wrecked school with shattered windows. Once we passed an entire railway train, its row of silver carriages burned and twisted in a siding. "That's where we shot two terrorists," the Comandant said as we passed a grocery store. "Yesterday we shot one in Berkhadem. He had an automatic pistol on him."

Because of their ski-masks and black hoods, the people of Algiers long ago named Comandant

Mohammad's men the "Ninjas" — it was not said in admiration but the gendarmes like the title — and there is little doubt of the feelings they evoke. One man watched them from a shop in Chateau de France, clutching his fists in anger, groups of youths staring with hatred, others ignoring the patrol as if we did not exist, as if their war had already defeated the authority which the Comandant's men still represent. The gendarmes stopped a van carrying a cheap plywood coffin and the mourners in the back looked right through the Ninjas as if they were made of glass.

"Watch how the guys in the distance hurry away when they catch sight of

us," the commandant said. And, sure enough, when we watched the far end of streets, men could be seen moving swiftly towards doorways, alleys, corridors that opened onto the road. "It's crawling with them," Comandant Mohammad said as we entered Cherarba. "This place isn't what they call 'liberated' but it's with them, everyone who lives here. In the elections, it was 100 per cent FIS."

Only rarely did he mention the acronym of the Islamic Salvation Front, whose inevitable victory in national elections three years ago was annulled by a military-backed government, provoking the very violence which forced Comandant Mohammad's 150

men of the Escadron de Sécurité Routière to give up their BMW motor-cycles in favour of armoured vans. He preferred other titles for the FIS: "outlaws" or "terrorists" or just "them." The facts came pouring from him like the rapid fire of his Kalashnikov. Almost all the armed Islamists carry Israeli weapons — "Scorpions or Uzis" which he thought must have been smuggled across Algeria's long and unguarded borders with Morocco, Libya, Tunisia or Mali. They were making bombs with butane gas bottles filled with explosives, glass, acetylene, sulphur and iron filings, buried in the roads and detonated with batteries. "What these people do is not Islamic,"

he said. "You don't slash the throats of women, kids and foreigners to be a Muslim." But he showed a healthy respect for his enemies. "They are organised. There is a 'brain' behind them. These are people who evolve with the situation. They change. They used to use stolen hunting rifles. Now they use automatic weapons and explosives. They strike wherever they have the initiative. They have 'spotters' and they have a method. The leaders know each other but those who do the attacks don't know each other. It's a pyramid structure."

It was the old story of insurrection. The Islamists

had shaved their beards, donned djelaba robes, sometimes pretended to be fruit pickers, rifles at their sides in the orange groves, sleeping in the shams at night, walking out through the suburban wadis by the sewage overflows at dawn. "In Algiers, the Islamic Armed Group (GIA) are much more numerous than the FIS's armed movement," the commandant said as he relaxed in his office at the Haddad Barracks in Harrash, an old Rolling Stones 33 record — I'm a Street-Fighting Man — on the turntable. "When you fight with them, they fight to the end. They never surrender."

In the country — "stay no more than 20 minutes in

one spot or they can mount an ambush they attack in bands of 20 or 30" — the Ninjas are more at ease. At one point we ran through fields of yellow rape seed beneath snow-touched mountains near Blida, the gendarmes raising their rifles at a figure in the grass, only to be confronted by a schoolboy carrying a school satchel who refused to raise his arms. The Comandant grunted at him. "It's OK," he said again. But not in Chateau Rouge where the Ninjas pounced on a cafe full of men — "hands against the wall, spread your feet, papers" — and handcuffed one grim-faced figure with a dark beard. "He's wearing Reebok shoes — they cost 200 U.S. dollars here — how did he get the money?" the commandant asked. Two miles further on, 26-year-old Mohammad Benimal had his handcuffs removed. He wasn't on the police computer.

Later, in Bab El Oued, the hardest of all the Islamist strongholds in any Algerian city, Comandant Mohammad and his men strung themselves along the pavement, watched by perhaps a thousand young men, so that I could take photographs. "It's swarming with spotters," he muttered. "Look at the way they look at us." The gendarmes pointed their rifles at the roofs, balconies, pavements, as the crowds grew thicker, more disturbed, as if they might tear the policemen apart. Comandant Mohammad insisted that a burst of fire in the air would clear the street if there was trouble. But after just two minutes, he looked at his watch. "We should go," he said. "Now."

And so they went, 15 men whose bravery could not be questioned but with a task as sombre as it appeared almost impossible. I wondered amid the orchards and slums, how many new recruits to the GIA the identity checks had created. Support for authority does not come from a rifle at the neck. Almost every street through which we passed had effectively been lost to government control, every district patrolled by groups of young, angry men, the gendarmes treated as interlopers rather than protectors. To be sure, there are no 'no-go' areas in Algiers, but there are now no safe ones either.

The *Independent*

Prince Hassan, Peres meet Kohl

(Continued from page 1)

Prince and attended by Mr. Peres, Mr. Marin, Mr. Kinkel and the delegation accompanying the Crown Prince.

Chancellor Kohl's hosting of this discussion in the presence of the EU (officials)

shows Germany's and the EU's interest" in financing the projects, Prince Hassan told Jordan Television.

"Of course I said that we have discussed the issue with Finance Minister Theo Waigel and Development Minister Carl-Dieter Spranger.

yesterday and our contacts with the French government continue."

In the morning Mr. Peres

raised the issue with Finance Minister Theo Waigel and Development Minister Carl-Dieter Spranger.

Mr. Major's discussions with the King over dinner at the Royal Palace Tuesday night were believed to have dealt with the Middle East peace process, Jordanian-British relations and regional and international issues of mutual interest, such as the situation vis-a-vis sanctions-bait Iraq and the conflict in former Yugoslavia.

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At this stage we have made no concessions, we have opened a door for negotiations," Mr. Peres told Israel Radio in an interview from Bonn.

The official Syrian Press

described Mr. Christopher's mission as a rescue operation and said the announcement for a resumption was the least he could do to save the peace talks from collapse.

A terse statement issued by the Syrian presidential palace confirmed the ambassadors would be heading back to Washington and said "discussions on further steps will

take place in light of the results of these talks."

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres spoke of a new door opening up for peace with Syria but conceded that Israel "made no concessions."

"That's the basis on which you begin to establish... where there is potential for trade-offs here," he said.

Syria meanwhile ruled out any territorial concessions over the Golan Heights in the quest for peace despite agreeing to resume negotiations with Israel.

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Christopher and Mr. Ross worked out with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and announced in Damascus on Tuesday, Mr. Ross will "make suggestions" on security and other issues that have not been solved since Israel and Syria began their peace talks in October 1991, a senior U.S. official said.

The week-long, five-country swing turned out to be "one of the most satisfying trips I've made to the Middle East," despite beginning in a sour atmosphere in which progress looked difficult to achieve, Mr. Christopher told reporters as he flew home.

U.S. officials said the talks were expected to start at the beginning of next week in the J.S. capital, but that no announcements would be made on specific dates of meetings.

Mr. Christopher rejected suggestions that the two envoys, Israel's Itamar Rabinovich and Syria's Walid Al Sullem, had no authority to basically read position papers at each other.

"I'm satisfied there be-and-take bargaining," he said.

A senior U.S. official briefing reporters aboard the plane taking Mr. Christopher back to Washington said the sum total would have a pre-planned structure there. He suggested December's chief-of-staff meeting

had been premature.

The officials said Washington hoped the talks would give a clearer sense of each side's priorities for post-withdrawal security arrangements — the subject that dominated Mr. Christopher's talks in Israel and Syria.

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Arab Gulf states refloat idea of dropping dollar link

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states, which control nearly 45 per cent of the world's oil, are again floating the idea of abandoning the U.S. dollar as an official price of crude.

Their economies have been severely hit by the weakening of the greenback over the past decade.

Calls to adopt a basket that includes the dollar and other major world currencies surged last year after a further decline in the dollar and picked up this month following a record plunge in the U.S. note.

But while some officials and experts see such an option as an ideal solution to minimise losses, others argue it is not that easy.

The alternative for revising the oil pricing system, including a basket of current-

ies is in my opinion too complicated," Jovan Al Dahiri, undersecretary of the Abu Dhabi finance department, said Tuesday.

"There have been a lot of calls and studies proposing such a change. This shows that switching to a basket of currencies is not a quick solution as it needs the agreement of all oil producers," he told Al Bayan newspaper.

Mr. Dahiri said the refusal of some oil producers to drop the dollar price could prompt consumers to buy more oil from them, while setting up a new pricing mechanism that would please all producers could be "a difficult process."

His comments followed calls by United Arab Emirates (UAE) minister of state for finance and industry, Ahmad Al Tayer, for

emergency talks of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) oil and finance ministers to discuss abandoning the dollar after last week's record decline against the Japanese yen and the German mark.

Qatari Oil Minister Abdallah Al Attiyah, addressing a gas conference in Doha Monday, also proposed switching to a basket of currencies or to the International Monetary Fund's Special Drawing Rights as a new pricing system for oil.

The idea was also floated by the Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting (GOIC) at talks between the six-nation GCC and Japan in Tokyo late last year.

A GOIC paper at the conference, which brought together more than 400 officials and businessmen from the two sides, highlighted the

plight of Gulf oil producers because of the weak dollar and suggested a change.

"The paper proposed a balanced basket of currencies as a realistic pricing formula for oil to reduce the losses inflicted on our countries as a result of the weakening in the U.S. dollar," GOIC expert Mohammad Khawajeh said from the organisation's headquarters in Doha.

"Actually, such a formula is more realistic than the dollar because it would offset future fluctuations in the U.S. currency. It could include the dollar itself along with the yen and other major world currencies," he added.

GCC states depend heavily on oil exports and the decline in crude prices over the past decade has slowed down their economies, forced them to borrow and turned their

financial surpluses into shortfalls.

The six GCC members — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, and the UAE — produce nearly 13 million barrels per day (bd), accounting for more than two thirds of the total Arab oil output and one fifth of the world's supplies.

Their coffers came under further pressure because of the weak dollar and higher prices of imports from industrial states due to inflation.

The problem was underscored by the fact that the currencies of most of them are effectively pegged to the dollar and around 80 per cent of their imports come from Japan, the European Union and other non-dollar industrial nations.

Official figures showed the GCC and other Arab oil pro-

Russian Duma passes budget at final reading

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's parliament approved the 1995 budget Wednesday and Finance Minister Vladimir Paskov said the decision meant Russia moved on to a "civilised path of development."

The State Duma lower house of parliament approved the draft budget by 289 votes to 81 with no abstentions on its fourth and final reading, clearing another hurdle to a \$6.4 billion standby loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The budget envisages expenditure of 248.34 trillion roubles (\$52 billion at current exchange rates) and income of 175.16 trillion roubles (\$37 billion) for a deficit of 73.18 trillion roubles (\$15.4 billion).

Mr. Paskov said the deficit, originally put at 7.8 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) would in fact be 5.6 per cent as GDP would be greater than first calculated.

Passing, and sticking to, a

tight 1995 budget has been a key condition for Moscow winning the standby loan, which will be used to plug the deficit.

IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus, in Moscow last week to sign an agreement on the loan, gave his blessing to the government's economic programme.

He said he was sure the IMF board would give final approval for the loan in early April.

First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoly Chubais said the key task now was to ensure the budget was met.

He said few people had initially believed the budget would be passed or would win the international community's backing.

"But the budget has been approved, the IMF has given its vote of confidence and inflation is falling," he said. He said inflation, which slipped to a monthly 11 per cent in February from 17.8 per cent in January, would fall further in March.

He called for a system of deposit payments that dealers would have to put up when making currency trades in order to cool the frantic pace of short-term international money flows.

He preferred this to his Socialist rival Lionel Jospin's suggestion of a global tax on capital movements.

Mr. Balladur also urged a new common world currency standard along the lines of the gold standard abandoned in 1971 when the post-war Bretton Woods pegged-

Balladur warns of crisis without stability of world's major currencies

PARIS (R) — The world economy is courting disaster if major states fail to stabilise their currencies. French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur warned Tuesday.

But speaking after a month in which the U.S. dollar has plunged dramatically, throwing Europe's own currencies into disarray, the conservative presidential candidate told Reuters in an interview that he was "preaching in the wilderness."

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Mr. Balladur also urged a new common world currency standard along the lines of the gold standard abandoned in 1971 when the post-war Bretton Woods pegged-

currency system broke down.

"In a world which moves around hundreds of billions of dollars every day by computer, could we not invent rules of market organisation that would make speculative gains less easy?" Mr. Balladur said.

But asked if he believed the recent turmoil on world currency markets would bring changes, Mr. Balladur was pessimistic.

"Every time there's trouble people say it's very serious, we have to do something about it. And then life goes on, they say it wasn't so serious, we survived, and they wait for the next shock," he said.

"For me, my fear and my obsession is that one day the shock will be so severe that the prosperity of the world would suffer badly. So I would prefer that we prepare for the worst. But I am alone in this opinion," he added.

U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan

has suggested return to the gold standard, but few politicians have been prepared to go along with that. Mr. Balladur said the standard could also be provided by a basket of currencies, along the lines of the European Currency Unit (ECU).

But he conceded France, which has been urging a return to a more managed currency system for years and will do so again at June's Group of Seven summit in Halifax, Canada, had difficulty in getting its message across.

"It doesn't always get a good press because people say the French are always dirigistes," Mr. Balladur said.

One bright spot in the outlook, however, was the prospect of a single European currency that would rank with the dollar as pivot of international commerce, even if this would not end with fluctuations between the European and dollar zone.

Mr. Balladur reaffirmed his commitment to cutting France's budget deficits, notably by engaging in a major reform of health spending immediately after the May election, in order that the country qualify for entry to a Euro monetary union in 1997.

"We have to keep to the 1997 deadline, because if we start saying we're not going to keep to it, then it's certain we won't keep to it," he said.

"I can't guarantee Jan. 1, 1997, but I will do all I can to get there. My will is categorical."

After the May election, the recent tensions that have seen the franc lose ground against the mark should ease, Mr. Balladur said. But doubts among investors about the start of monetary union made it hard to guarantee continuous stability until 1997.

He is trailing fellow Gaullist Jacques Chirac and Jospin.

Indian 'anti-poverty' budget boosts spending on welfare

NEW DELHI (AFP) — The Indian government boosted spending on public welfare, increased subsidies and lowered tariff barriers Wednesday in a budget mixing populism and reform with an eye on general elections next year.

"It's a budget with an anti-poverty emphasis," Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao told reporters after the budget was unveiled in parliament by Finance Minister Manmohan Singh. "It gives benefit to the lowest of the low."

Mr. Rao described it as a "budget of growth" and said there would be no backing away from the sweeping eco-

nomic liberalisation he began after taking power in June 1991.

The fiscal 1995-96 (April-March) budget took a first step towards opening up the lucrative insurance sector to foreign firms and lowered import tariffs by 15 per cent to a peak rate of 50 per cent.

Mr. Singh, the architect of the radical free-market reforms ending four decades of protectionist policies, pledged to crack down hard on inflation in a budget bountiful to India's millions of rural poor.

The Bombay Stock Exchange, in a special post-budget trading session, gave an initial thumbs-down to the

package as market expectations of corporate tax breaks were not fulfilled. The BSE index lost 50 points.

The budget increasing spending on health care, rural development and education follows a clutch of state election defeats for Rao's Congress (I) Party that have been blamed on voter disenchantment with economic reform.

Mr. Singh, facing charges that the reforms have benefited only the rich and done nothing for the poor, opened the government's coffers to fund generous public welfare programmes ahead of general elections due by mid-1996. He said a million subsi-

dised houses would be built, announced a modest old-age pension for the rural poor and set up a programme to provide maternity care for village women.

A programme to provide free lunches for village schoolchildren would be expanded. Impoverished low-caste citizens would get soft loans.

Bank credit for rural industries was increased and a subsidised group life insurance scheme set up for villagers. More than \$3 billion was earmarked for subsidies on food and fertilisers.

But such programmes were only short-term measures to alleviate poverty and to the

long run only economic growth can improve the standards of living, Mr. Singh said, stressing the need for continuing the reforms.

"The message is clear — the task of lifting the age-old burden of poverty in our society is daunting, but we are on the right track," Mr. Singh said.

"We must persevere with our two-track strategy of accelerating growth, investment and modernisation on the one track and strengthening anti-poverty programmes on the other," he said.

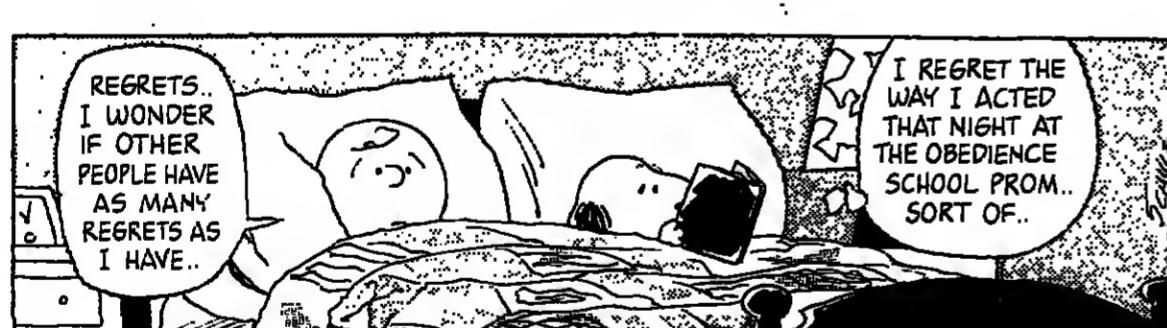
In the first step towards opening up the lucrative insurance business to the private sector, the finance

minister said a regulatory authority would be set up to govern competition in the industry when it ceases to be a state monopoly.

A five-year tax holiday was announced for investment in key infrastructure areas such as highways, bridges and airports, and duty cuts given on products ranging from polyester and paper to cosmetics and cold drinks.

Mr. Singh offered income tax exemption for people making less than 55,000 rupees (\$1,718) a year and pledged to rein in inflation, currently 11.5 per cent, considered high in a country where incomes are low.

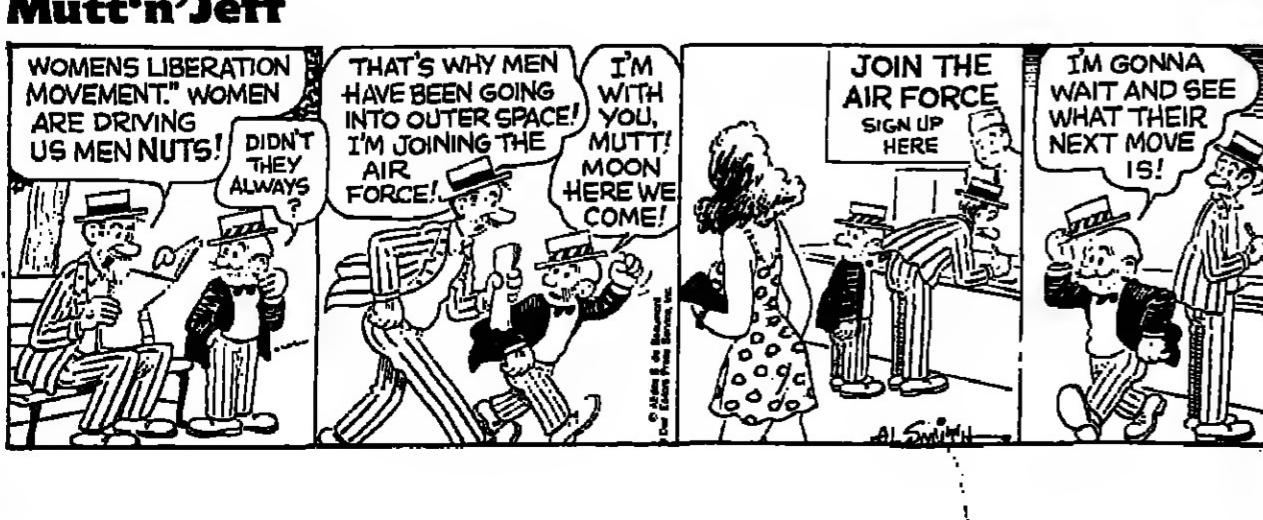
Peanuts



Andy Capp



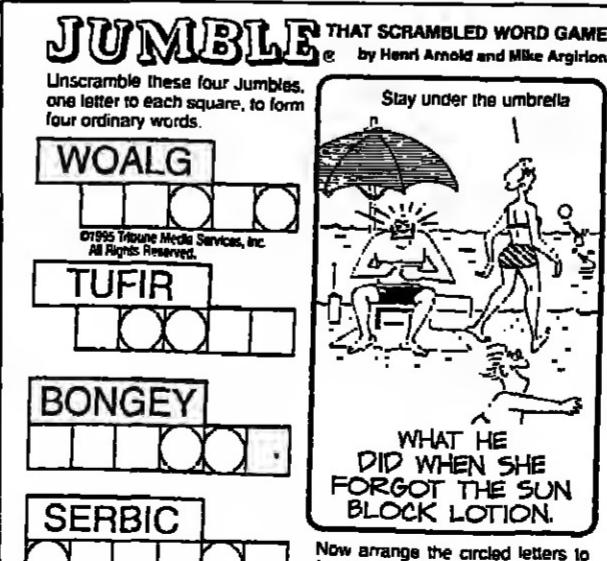
Mutt'n Jeff



THE BETTER HALF By Glasberg



"Why can't I quit my job and be a kid again? Lots of people change careers at my age!"



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer as suggested by the above canon.

Print answer here: A [circled letters: O, A, L, G, T, U, F, I, R, B, O, N, G, E, Y, S, E, R, B, I, C]

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's | Jumbles: GUARO LUSTY REDUCE AMPERE
Answer: Why the tailor's business kept growing — HE "MEASURED" UP

Australia remains top beef exporter

GENEVA (AP) — Australia remains the world's number one beef exporter, according to an annual report published by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Tuesday. Meat demand worldwide rose in 1994 and was met with large supplies of both red and white meat. Prices were stable due to reduced European Union beef exports which allowed other countries a chance to expand their shipments. The WTO report entitled "The International Markets for Meat" examines production, consumption, trade and prices of beef and veal and summarises developments in pork, poultry and mutton. East Asian markets were most buoyant in 1994 with beef and poultry in particular high demand. North America enjoyed record meat supplies which led to lower prices and an increased share in world meat exports. The former Soviet Union and most eastern and central European countries fared less well with markets affected by failing domestic demand and reduced supplies. The report forecasts a healthy growth in world production of all meats next year as economic recovery boosts demand.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY MARCH 16, 1995
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can impress one in power in the morning with your abilities, but don't rest on your laurels. Be more encouraging to the ideas and suggestions of others.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Use your intuition which is accurate now in handling financial affairs. Think along optimistic lines and be logical in any direction.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your intuition is working fine early in the day, but don't trust it later on. Don't take any risks dealing with others in business.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Make plans to have more abundance in your future. The planets are most favourable today for getting ahead in career matters you are involved in.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be sure to complete any tasks left undone before taking on any new projects today. Don't discuss important business matters with experts unless you're positive they're qualified.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Plan early for whatever you want to do and then carry through intelligently. This can be a particularly fine day for you in any project you're involved in.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Take time to put your business affairs in better order. Await a better time for looking into new outlets and use care while you are in motion.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Support persons who have been loyal to you in the past. Show increased devotion to a loved one.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Study your money situation today and make plans to have more financial security. Strive to be more efficient at work and success will appear.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have confidence with higher ups; early and gain their support and goodwill. Take time to improve your appearance and the way others see you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Obtain the information you need from the right sources today. A financial expert can give advice for any plan you have in mind which will help others too.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 2

Business & Finance

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MARCH 16-17, 1995 9

**Business
Daily
Beat**

A review
of economic news
from the Arabic press

Defaulting on JD 10,000 loan costs 90-day jail

A COURT in Amman sentenced Antar Mohamad Taha Abu Sharbi to 90-day imprisonment for not repaying a JD 10,864 loan to the British Bank of the Middle East (Al Dastour).

THE ARAB Life and Accident Insurance Company posted JD 745,000 in net profits for fiscal 1994, down 3.9 per cent from 1993. The company's board of directors is recommending to the general assembly the distribution of JD 320,000, or 16 per cent in dividends, the same as in 1993. Profits from insurance operations amounted to JD 0.4 million compared to JD 0.27 in 1993 but the return on investments dropped by 31.6 per cent to JD 347,300. The company's total assets stood at JD 9.88 million at the end of 1994 (JD 10.5 million in '93) due to a decline in bank deposits from JD 5.7 million in 1993 to JD 4.53 in 1994. However, the total investment in shares, stocks and various credits increased to JD 3.8 million last year from JD 3.27 million in 1993. On the liability side, outstanding claims reserve shot up by 116 per cent from JD 1.52 million in 1993 to JD 3.28 million in 1994. The Housing Bank holds a 17.9 per cent stake in the company which is capitalised at JD 2.2 million but had a total equity of JD 2.76 million at the end of last year (Al Ra'i).

ROYAL JORDANIAN'S Alia Gateway Hotel scored its highest net profit in 1994. The amount was approximately JD 1.5 million. (Al Dastour)

IMPORTERS and traders of tyres would like to see customs reduced on new tyres after the government banned the importation of used tyres. They admit that prices of authentic tyres are high and point out that only the people who are capable or in great need are the ones buying new tyres. People with limited income are not happy with the ban on used tyres.

According to Khalaf Al Shura: "The decision to ban imports of used tyres is an unsuccessful decision because it does not serve the majority of the people who had put aside many essential things in order to buy a modest car that would serve them and help them endure life's difficulties." He hoped that the government would reconsider its decision that mostly hurts the ordinary man who, rather than filling his stomach with food, fills his car tank with fuel.

Another person, Suleiman Ali, says it will be better for an owner of a modest car to sell the car itself than pay 'astronomical amounts' to buy new tyres (Al Aswag).

CONSUMERS are complaining that despite a cut in customs duty, prices of electrical appliances are still high. A field survey showed three main reasons that are keeping prices high. First, the international rise in prices, including the rise in the value of foreign currencies. Second, the taxes and fees that the government imposes and which result in higher costs on the goods and, thirdly, and most importantly, the weak purchasing power of the consumers and the general economic recession. The general manager of a clearing company explained that the reduction in customs was not much as it went down from 85 per cent to 50 per cent but, on the other hand, the sales tax was hiked to 11.9 per cent. As such, the calculation was: The cost 50 per cent customs plus 15 per cent additional fees plus five per cent trade permits fees plus he sales tax (Al Dastour).

France opens inquiry into Credit Lyonnais

PARIS (R) — French legal authorities moved swiftly Wednesday to probe alleged wrongdoing at Credit Lyonnais after Prime Minister Edouard Balladur ordered an investigation into the state-owned bank's vast losses.

Economy Minister Edmond Alphandery said the Paris public prosecutor had begun a number of inquiries into possible wrongdoing at Credit Lyonnais which gorged on acquisitions and investments in the early 1990s to become Europe's largest bank.

"There has been embezzlement... this must be pursued by legal means. The public prosecutor has already opened a number of inquiries," Mr. Alphandery told France Inter Radio. He said the bank had a "hole" in its accounts of some 50 billion francs (\$9.96 billion), which sources said represented potential losses on asset sales.

Late Tuesday, the conservative prime minister, battling to regain his lead in the presidential elections, demanded a probe to finger those responsible for the hemorrhage of red ink.

"All means will be taken to sanction those executives who may be identified," he pledged.

Sources said the bank will announce Friday its 1994 results which are expected to show that losses widened to a record 10 billion francs (\$1.99 billion) from last year's 6.9 billion.

The figures will be accompanied by the announcement of a second government res-

cue for the bank which will come on top of last year's 23.3 billion franc (\$4.64 billion) bailout. The plan is aimed at returning the bank to profit in 1995.

Under the bailout scheme, Credit Lyonnais will live off up to 140 billion francs (\$27.88 billion) of assets into a new firm to be guaranteed by the government which will sell them off as market conditions permit.

In return, the bank "will have to finance its past losses with its future profits," thus avoiding calling on taxpayers' funds, Mr. Alphandery said.

Published reports have said the bank will be forced to repay a substantial portion of its profits to the state over the next 20 years.

Mindful of voter reaction, Mr. Balladur has been anxious to avoid using taxpayers' money to save the bank after the public uproar which greeted the first rescue.

The bailout which brought complaints from other French banks that it will distort competition in the banking industry, got a tentative green light Tuesday from European competition Commissioner Karel van Miert after he met Mr. Alphandery.

Mr. Van Miert called the outline for restructuring the bank a "good approach" and final commission approval is expected soon.

The bank would not comment on the investigation but sources close to it said it would not interfere with its future plans.

Financial Markets		Jordan Times			
In co-operation with		Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets					
Currency					
New York Close Date 14/3/95		Tokyo Close Date 13/3/95			
Sterling Pound	1.3855	1.3871**			
Danske Mark	1.4138	1.4135			
Swiss Franc	1.1760	1.1731**			
French Franc	2.0102	2.0122**			
Japanese Yen	90.80	90.33			
Eurozone Currency Unit	1.2930	1.2963**			
** Non per SEC ** Opened Opening @ 10% rate, Gmt					
Eurocurrency Interest Rates					
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS		
U.S. Dollar	5.87	6.00	6.12		
Sterling Pound	5.87	6.12	6.52		
Danske Mark	4.68	4.75	4.93		
Swiss Franc	3.31	3.43	3.62		
French Franc	7.00	7.25	7.57		
Japanese Yen	2.00	2.00	2.00		
Eurozone Currency Unit	6.77	6.77	7.12		
Interest 100 rate for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.					
Precious Metals					
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*
Gold	386.35	7.70	Silver	4.72	0.111
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin					
Currency	Bid	Offer	Date: 15/3/1995		
U.S. Dollar	0.6880	0.6900			
Sterling Pound	1.0907	1.0962			
Danske Mark	0.4861	0.4883			
Swiss Franc	0.5849	0.5874			
French Franc	0.1372	0.1374			
Japanese Yen	0.7599	0.7657			
Dutch Guilder	0.4335	0.4335			
Swedish Krona	0.0000	0.0000			
Italian Lira*	0.0409	0.0411			
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000			
* Per 100					
Other Currencies					
Currency	Bid	Offer	Date: 15/3/1995		
Industrial Dinar	1.8100	1.8200			
Lebanese Lira*	0.041750	0.042750			
Saudi Riyal	0.1851	0.1841			
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3000	2.3500			
Qatari Riyal	0.1874	0.1891			
Egyptian Pound	0.1850	0.2085			
Omani Riyal	1.7790	1.7910			
UAE Dirham	0.1868	0.1878			
Greek Drachma*	0.2713	0.3185			
Cypriot Pound	1.4530	1.3330			

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and Bullion markets Monday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs 1.4090/00 Canadian dollar
1.4040/50 Deutschemarks
1.5748/58 Dutch guilders
1.1720/30 Swiss francs
29.11/15 Belgian francs
5.0185/35 French francs
1690.0/5.0 Italian lire
90.13/23 Japanese yen
7.2775/75 Swedish crowns
6.2990/40 Norwegian crowns
5.6660/10 Danish crowns
One sterling £1.5816/26
One ounce of gold \$382.60/383.10

Al Ra'i, Jordan Times maintain high profitability

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The publishers of Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times will distribute 50 per cent dividend for fiscal 1994, company executives said Wednesday.

They said the Jordan Press Foundation Company Limited made net profit of JD 1,611,276 for the year compared with JD 1,623,293 in 1993.

Income from newspaper sales and subscription was JD 2,275,422 compared with JD 2,135,501 in 1993, while revenues from commercial printing services declined to JD845,866 from JD 1,006,629 last year.

In addition was JD 244,164 in other income.

In general terms, 63 per cent of the income came from advertising, 25 per cent from sales and subscription, nine per cent from commercial printing operations and three per cent for other sources.

The company, which has a capital of JD 2 million in

of newspapers and advertising charges with effect from April 1 to defray the increase in newspaper prices.

The final statement of accounts of the Jordan Press Foundation Company Limited, to be released at a general assembly meeting on March 28, showed that income from advertising was JD 5,701,744 compared with JD 5,373,444 in 1993.

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In addition was JD 244,164 in other income.

In general terms, 63 per cent of the income came from advertising, 25 per cent from sales and subscription, nine per cent from commercial printing operations and three per cent for other sources.

The company, which has a capital of JD 2 million in

JD 1 par-value shares, posted a pre-tax income of JD 2,635,213 for the year, JD 132,101 down from 1993.

The Social Security Corporation (SSC), a quasi-governmental agency, and the Jordan Investment Corporation, the investment arm of the government, own 61

per cent of the company, one

of the oldest newspaper

establishments in the King-

dom.

The company's shares were

traded at around JD 12 last

week.

According to the statement

of accounts of the company, the net worth of

the company was JD 9,082,184 at the end of

1994 after depreciation, com-

pared JD 8,470,994 the year

before. Fixed assets of the

company, which bought a

JD 3.5 million printing

machine and built new build-

ings last year, were worth

JD 845,866,416.

A full computerisation of

the printing and publishing

operations of the company is

under way at a cost of

JD 500,000.

Mahmoud Al Kayed chairs

the board of directors of the

company. The board includes

Abed Ilah Tabas as vice-

chairman and Mohammad Al

Amad (director-general).

Other members of the

board are: Ali Gharayeb

(representing the Jordan In-

vestment Corporation), Ramzi Muasher (representa-

tive of Business Bank), Ibra-

him Ahu Ragheb (repre-

sentative of Yarmouk Insur-

ance Company), and Walid

Al Khatib, Bassam Rabadi

and Fattallah Omrani (all

representing the Social Se-

curity

Kingdom's victorious basketball team returns home

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — "We were the talk of the town."

This is how Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) President Awwad Haddad described Jordan's participation in the 13th Asian Junior Basketball Championship which concluded in Manila last Sunday.

Jordan's victorious Under-18 national team arrived back to Amman Wednesday morning after taking part in the 15-nation competition where they clinched third place and qualified to the World Championship due to be held in Greece in July.

The promising young group of players became the first Jordanian team to clinch an Asian bronze medal in a team sport, enabling them to represent the continent in a world championship.

"We were dubbed the 'Cinderella' of the competition. We came from nowhere and ended up taking third place. Like all Jordanians, I am very proud," said Mr. Haddad.

When the team was first regrouped at the beginning of the year, the major task was how to best prepare them for the Asian competition.

The team practised hard and received the careful attention of the JBF who prepared a serious schedule of training camps in Amman and Syria.

The effort paid off. And the team passed the test with flying colours, making them well-known to all Jordanians who followed their results with great pride and astonishment.

Now the next big hurdle is how to best prepare for the World Championship in which 16 teams will be taking part.

"We are sure we will be able to cover the financial aspect," the JBF's Mr. Haddad Wednesday told the Jordan Times. "However, we need a concerted effort of all parties in order to enable the players to participate as the championship coincides with university and Tawjih exams," he added.

Mr. Haddad said he had explained this point to the Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat and hoped the matter would be settled in a positive manner in order to enable the team to participate.

Mr. Haddad who has headed the JBF a number of times in earlier years and is well-known for his contacts and ability to secure sponsorship for the teams said he was hopeful national companies and individuals would back the JBF.

"The results of this team are proof enough of their ability. Therefore I am very hopeful that we will receive sufficient sponsorship, even though many sponsors were disappointed lately and did not fulfil their pledges to the JBF," Mr.

Haddad said alluding to the fact that the federation lost



JBF officials and the U-18 team with Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat shortly after their arrival in Amman



The Kingdom's U-18 team (right) on the winners' podium in Manila with champions South Korea and runners-up China.

Haddad said alluding to the fact that the federation lost

JD 10,000 from car companies who had sponsored

the All-Star tournament but paid half the promised

amount when Jordan Television did not air the matches as previously agreed with the JBF.

"I find it strange that Jordan Television does not have a more positive attitude. After all we are talking about a national team here," he added.

As a result of the strained relationship with the JBF, JTV did not cover the daily results of the U-18 except on the sports programme (see separate story)

The results of the team came as follows:

First round

Jordan vs. Hong Kong 71-24
Jordan vs. Singapore 88-35
South Korea vs. Jordan 75-61

Quarterfinals

Jordan vs. Philippines 72-71
Jordan vs. Japan 73-56
China vs. Jordan 88-49

Semifinals

South Korea vs. Jordan 69-51

3rd place match

Jordan vs. Thailand 62-56

The team includes Zeid Alkhas, Ma'ao Odeh, Ashraf Samara, Mahmoud Shabani, Samer Nimo, Yanar Bisheh, Ihab Msib, Ra'ed Ghosheh, Adel Ammar, Ramzi Ghneim, Fadi Al Saqqa and Seif Al Lada'a.



Family members, friends and officials greet the U-18 team at Queen Alia International Airport

JBF officials turn their back to JTV

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The dispute between the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) and Jordan Television (JTV) took a new turn Wednesday when JBF officials refused to give arrival statements to the JTV crew who were at Queen Alia International Airport as the Under-18 national basketball team came back home after taking part in the Asian Junior Basketball Championship in Manila.

The dispute between the two sides has existed for quite some time now as JTV has always had a strict policy when it comes to showing the names of sponsors of athletic teams on television. However, federations have always argued that sponsors were supporting Jordanian sports, something all concerned have been calling for.

The latest JBF-JTV row erupted after the television agreed to air some of the All-Star tournament's matches during the holy month of Ramadan. When JTV did not honour the agreement, car companies sponsoring the tournament did not pay the JBF the full amounts they had pledged.

"We had an agreement. However, JTV did not show up, nor did they give us any excuse for doing so," JBF Vice President Samir Janakat Wednesday told the Jordan Times.

"They have a very rigid attitude. We have always offered our cooperation, but they chose to disregard us. Therefore we will refrain from making basketball events and news accessible until the time they chose to do otherwise."

Regrettably, JTV even dealt with the Under-18 Asian competition in an offhand manner too. While the Kingdom's team was making headlines in Asia by capturing third place in the 15-nation tournament, JTV only mentioned the event in passing, and according to the sports department at the daily newspapers "the public jammed the telephone lines to obtain daily results by calling the newspapers for the latest news."

Although JTV now airs daily sports news in its news bulletins, only after the qualification to the semifinals and Jordan's eligibility to participate in the world championship was the team in news headlines on Jordanian TV.

"This is unfortunate. This team was a national team representing the country and became the first Jordanian team to make it to a world championship. It was a great achievement for the country," Mr. Janakat added.

Tapie denies match-fixing

VALENCIENNES (AP) — Bernard Tapie denied here Tuesday any involvement in an alleged attempt to fix a French first division football match two years ago.

The former socialist government minister, who faces up to three year's jail if found guilty, denied allegations by his former associate Jean-Pierre Bernes that he hatched a plan to fix the match between Marseille and Valenciennes.

Victory would have given Marseille their fifth French championship in a row, six days before a European Cup final against AC Milan.

The former Marseille president told the court: "Yes, I wanted to win the Valenciennes match. Yes, I wanted no injuries."

"Yes, I wanted to be champion of France. No, that does not add up to me wanting to fix the match."

Bernes, the 38-year-old former Marseille general manager, alleged on the opening day of the trial on Monday that Tapie and Marseille player Jean-Jacques Eydelin had hatched the plot to bribe three Valenciennes players to allow Marseille to win the match.

"I was not so confident the last two weeks but when I came here I said to myself this is my last chance and I will have to try very hard," Alphonse said.

"I think this win shows my Kitzbuhel double was not a fluke," he added.

Lasse Kjus of Norway, fastest over the top of the course, was third in 1:53.92.

Peter Rzechak of Austria was fourth in 1:53.96 and compatriot Patrick Ortler, the 1992 Olympic champion looking for his first win this season, finished fifth in 1:53.97.

Kristian Ghedina of Italy, whose time of 1min 54.03 stood up until Ortler nine places after him in 10th start position, had been on course for the downhill title until Alphonse swept down.

Alphonse's downhill title

French win crowns Tomba

BORMIO, Italy (AP) — Lil Alphonse, who had never won before this Kitzbuhel Double in January, became the first Frenchman since Jean-Claude Killy in 1967 in 1967 to win the World Cup downhill title here on Wednesday.

The French protested because Killy's win would have cost Alphonse his place in the downhill standings.

Only Slovenia's Jure Kosir had a mathematical chance of overtaking Tomba but he would have to win Thursday's giant slalom — an event he does not ski — and then the giant slalom and slalom with Tomba finishing off the points each time.

Tomba is the first slalom gate-racer since Ingemar Stenmark to win the men's overall title.

The triple Olympic champion, whose winning streak of 10 races came to an end in Japan last month, had been prepared to ski his first super giant slalom for years to win it is first World Cup.

The 28-year-old may also postpone his retirement in an attempt to win an elusive world title.

He had said he would call it a day after this world championships in Sierra Nevada but the fickle weather that has disrupted the season forced the Spanish organisers to postpone the event until next year.

Stenmark's 88 World Cup wins look unbreakable but Tomba's 43 race wins have surpassed Girardelli's tally. The Luxembourg skier's grand total of 45 includes 10 wins or combined, which is effectively a paper race adding results from nominated downhills and slaloms.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

#4S ♠AQ863 4J52

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Unless partner has a perfect holding, the limit of the hand is at most seven. Scientists would bid two spades to show the stopper but I prefer to bid one club, even though that bypasses three no trump. We think three diamonds is a red bid, but there are exceptions to every rule.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

#K6 ♠AQ863 4J52

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—Since you can't pass, nor bid no trump, I hold my club stopper, you are limited to four clubs — three diamonds or two spades.

Rather than rebid your shabby six-card minor, we would take a preference for partner's five-card or

longer major. Bid two spades.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

#K6 ♠AQ863 4J52

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?

A.—No question, your best shot for game, or slams for that matter, appears to be in spades. There is available a bid that shows a solid mid-range side-and-value. Partner may be a little worried. Partner will know whether he has the right hand for a move.

Malone boosts Jazz over Magic; Rockets win

ORLANDO (AP) — Karl Malone scored 27 points and John Stockton keyed a 15-3 spurt in the last three minutes Tuesday night as the Utah Jazz beat the Orlando Magic 107-95 for its ninth consecutive victory.

The loss stopped Orlando's 11-game home winning streak and was only the Magic's second at Orlando Arena in 34 games this season.

Malone scored 19 of his points in the second half, while Stockton just missed a

tripple double with 18 points, 18 assists and eight rebounds. Jeff Hornacek added 17 points.

Shaquille O'Neal led Orlando with 29 points and 11 rebounds. Anfernee Hardaway add 24 points and Nick Anderson 17 for Orlando, whose only other loss at home came against the Seattle SuperSonics.

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Malone



Cheltenham Cup

Service Alderbrook lands Champion Hurdle

TENHAM, England
Brilliant novice Alderbrook's 11-2 chance having a third race over barrier on the Champion Hurdle with breathtakingly five lengths from Action, the 4-1 joint te.

victory was rich compensation for Irish jockey Williamson who lost on last year's Champion Hurdle winner Flakey after being hammed ear-careless riding, hitting the front up Cheltenham hill to hurdle crown company on Tuesday, Williamson said: "I never thought we were going to get any stage. It was

never Kim Bailey burst after the big race of the six-year-old he had taken over last race trainer Julie just eight weeks ago. He was equally flabbergasted that such an inexperienced colt could so easily the fastest and most successful hurdles Britain could have to offer.

He said: "He is some machine. You have really got to do him to him. I hope we can do the same next year."

Alderbrook is a group race winner on the flat with a victory at Longchamp to his credit.

Alderbrook, ridden by Williamson with all the cheeky know-how of a Lester Piggott derby winner, never put a foot wrong and was kept handily in mid-division until delivering his challenge at the last flight.

The plucky mare Mysil led one of the best Champion Hurdle fields for years over the first six hurdles, closely followed by Bold Boss and Large Action.

Land Afar, strongly fancied when he topped over in last year's Champion Hurdle, did so again at the sixth flight.

The Irish challenger Danilo, the other joint favourite, looked up on the outside, looking menacing for a while.

But it was clear before they even swung into the straight that Williamson just had to press the button.

He won going away from Large Action, the mount of Jamie Osborne, with Danilo, ridden by Charlie Swan, a further two lengths away.

It was a dream start to the meeting for Williamson, who had never had a winner before at the National Hunt festival.

He is now in the enviable position of riding the Cheltenham Gold Cup favourite Master Oats in the big race on Thursday.

Alderbrook was the second classy flat racing recruit to capture the hurdle crown in the last three years — Royal Gait won in only his fourth race over hurdles.

The Irish, who invade Cheltenham en-masse for the greatest jumping meeting of the year, twice raised the rafters in the first hour of competition.

Raymylette leapt to prominence in Gold Cup betting following his successes in Ascot's first National Bank Cup and Betterware Cup.

Henderson described Raymylette as "potentially the best staying chaser that I have had the privilege of training."

Man, the mount of Swan, to land the Arkle Challenge Trophy.

Top steeplechaser dead

Top steeplechaser Raymylette, who had been a hope for the Cheltenham Gold Cup, has died.

The horse, owned by Lady Madeleine Lloyd Webber, died on Monday during an operation for intestinal problems.

Trainer Nicky Henderson said on Tuesday: "A decision was made to operate and surgery was carried out by our own vet James Maine together with professor Edwards from Liverpool University but there was regrettably no more they could do for him."

Raymylette leapt to prominence in Gold Cup betting following his successes in Ascot's first National Bank Cup and Betterware Cup.

Henderson described Raymylette as "potentially the best staying chaser that I have had the privilege of training."

that continued to hit the headlines.

Earlier this month, five-million-pound-rated striker Chris Armstrong was left-out of Crystal Palace side for four games on FA instructions after testing positive for cannabis.

Ten days ago, Manchester United midfielder Paul Ince was charged with common assault by police for attacking a Crystal Palace fan on January 25 following the Cantona incident at Selhurst Park. Both he and Cantona are due to appear in court on March 23.

Last Monday Chelsea skipper Dennis Wise was released on bail pending his appeal against a three-month prison sentence for an assault on a taxi driver and criminal damage to the taxi.

Six weeks of the current season remain. Given current averages, English football should brace itself for at least another five scandals.

PARIS (AFP) — The UEFA Cup semi-finals on Tuesday served up an intriguing struggle between Italy and Germany — the strongest nations in the history of European football.

Italy's Parma and Juventus join Germany's Borussia Dortmund and Bayer Leverkusen in Friday's semi-final draw.

Juventus beat Eintracht Frankfurt 3-0 for a 4-1 aggregate win, Parma drew 0-0 at Odense (1-0), Bayer Leverkusen drew 0-0 at Nantes (5-1), and Dortmund beat Lazio 2-0 (2-1).

And in the Cup Winners' Cup, Chelsea defied the loss of their captain to beat FC Bruges 2-0 in London for a 2-1 aggregate win and a place in the final four.

Chelsea skipper Dennis Wise was jailed for three months on Monday for assaulting a taxi driver.

Borussia Dortmund's previous best challenge for a UEFA Cup title will be at the back of their minds.

In May 1993, Juventus humiliated Dortmund 6-1 on aggregate in the final of this same competition in an emphatic statement of Italy's domination. The same year, Parma won the Cup Winners' Cup and Milan lost in the European Cup final.

Riedle's last minute goal from a free-kick earned Dortmund a 2-0 win on the night.

Earlier Swiss striker Stephan Chapuisat scored an 11th minute penalty after a foul on Riedle.

A late goal from Juventus' skipper Dennis Wise earned Juventus 3-0 victory over Eintracht Frankfurt and a 4-1 aggregate win for a place in

Germany, Italy locked in UEFA Cup power struggle

the last four on May 4 and 18. Juventus kept up their tradition of European success with goals by Antonio Conte, Fabrizio Ravanelli, and Alessandro Del Piero.

Conte received a pass from Alessandro Del Piero, set up by Didier Deschamps, and put Juventus into a 7th minute lead.

Ravanelli hit the second with a superb left foot shot two minutes before time, and an unmarked Del Piero grabbed the third a minute later.

Bayer Leverkusen, the 1988 UEFA Cup champions, went through 5-1 on aggregate following a 0-0 draw in France.

Nantes, to their credit, worked hard to claw their way back into the tie after a 5-1 defeat from the first leg.

But Nantes' task was always an uphill struggle. Only three clubs in the history of European competitions have won a tie after a four-goal deficit from an away first leg.

In the first 10 minutes, moments after skipper Japeth N'Doram had a great scoring chance, Eric Desroix had the ball in the net from a corner. But the goal was disallowed for a foul on keeper Rudiger Volborn.

David Garcia, surprise call-up for suspended Reynald Pedros, set up Nicolas Quedec 10 minutes before

the interval. But Quedec put the ball wide.

Problems for Nantes' keepers continued as second-choice Dominique Casagrande was substituted with a shoulder injury. Fourth-choice keeper Jean-Louis Garcia, who played in the first leg, came on.

First-choice David Marraud is out all season after rupturing knee ligaments, and third-choice Eric Lousouarn is out with a head injury.

Nantes kept pushing forward, particularly in the last 15 minutes, but could not find the net.

Italy's Parma reached the semi-final after a 0-0 goalless draw at Denmark's Odense.

The 1992/93 Cup Winners' Cup champions and last season's losing finalists, can now claim success in another European competition following this 1-0 aggregate victory.

But it was the Danes, trying to capitalise on the absence of suspended Colombian Faustino Asprilla, who had the best chance of the match.

Meanwhile Striker Mark Stein inspired Chelsea to a gnis Cup Winners' Cup comeback against FC Bruges to earn the injury-plagued Londoners a place in the semi-finals.

English soccer hit by darkest season

ION (AFP) — The rigging scandal involving Grobbelaar and her Premiership play-potentially the most in a series of crisis to engulf football this sea-

Southampton goal-was among five people tested on Tuesday in connection with a police investigation into an alleged match-fixing cor-

shortly afterwards, Arsenal striker Paul Merson admitted to cocaine, alcohol and drug addiction.

In January Eric Cantona attacked an abusive Crystal Palace fan following his dismissal during Manchester United's 1-1 draw at Selhurst Park. The Frenchman was suspended by United until the end of the season and fined two weeks' wages. He was later banned until October 1995, fined £10,000 by the FA, and charged with

allegations, assaults, drugs, riots, fans attacking referees or a player biting the nose of a reporter or spitting in the face of a fan — English football has the lot.

The problems began in November when Grobbelaar emerged at the centre of match-fixing allegations. The FA and police both announced investigations and four months later Hampshire police swooped to make five arrests.

Arsenal sacked manager George Graham after a Premier League inquiry alleged he received 425,000 pounds following the transfers of John Jensen and Pal Lyderon to Highbury. The FA charged Graham with misconduct two weeks later.

A terrible month for English football came to an end with Belgian police deporting more than 800 people with varying degrees of justification before and after Chelsea's European Cup winners' Cup quarter-finals first leg in Bruges.

But it was still off-the-field scandals rather than football

common assault by the police. FIFA made the ban worldwide.

Much worse was to follow when rioting right-wing extremists force the abandonment of England's friendly against the Republic of Ireland in Dublin.

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Johnson blames white campaign for his disgrace

KINGSTON, Jamaica (R) — Disgraced Jamaican-born Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson was reported on Tuesday as saying he had been banned from world athletics because of a "campaign by white people."

Johnson, in Jamaica to work on a self-sponsored documentary on his life, was reportedly on the Jamaica Observer newspaper as saying his life ban was planned by whites who were campaigning to crush black sports stars.

He cited former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson, who is nearing the end of a jail

sentence for rape, as another who had suffered at the hands of whites.

"I was getting too powerful as a black athlete. Every time a black man tries to succeed in life they try to put him down. Black guys are making some good money and the white people don't want to see them succeed. Mike Tyson is another good example."

The 33-year-old Johnson was banned for life in 1993 after testing positive for banned drugs for a second time. He first tested positive at the Seoul Olympics in 1988 after crossing the finish line first in the 100 metres final.

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Visa of short duration for the SCHENGEN-countries

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- Effective 26th March 1995, Jordanian nationals who apply for an entry visa to one of the above mentioned countries for a short stay (a period not exceeding ninety days), will obtain a visa, valid for the whole Schengen area. The total duration of a stay, or of several stays, is limited to three months per semester in the above mentioned Schengen area. (Italy and Greece will join the Schengen convention procedure later).
- The Schengen agreement signifies real progress with regard to the free circulation of persons. Of course, a foreigner with a valid residence permit, issued by one of the Schengen-countries, will be authorised to leave and to re-enter the Schengen area without having to apply for a new visa, on condition however that he possesses, besides the afore-mentioned residence permit, a valid national travel document (passport). Likewise, a foreigner in possession of a valid residence permit, issued by one of the Schengen-countries, together with a valid travel document, may stay for a maximum-duration of three months per semester in all the other Schengen countries, without a prior visa request from these countries.
- The visa application has to be addressed to the competent consular service in the following manner:
 - If the applicant wishes to travel to one country only, he will have to apply for the visa from the authorities of that specific country.
 - If the applicant intends to visit several countries, he has to apply to the authorities of the country of his main destination, mentioning the purpose of his visit.
 - If the main destination cannot be determined, the competent Schengen-country to issue the visa, will be the one first entered by the traveller.
- The application for a visa does not automatically guarantee a favourable response. The purpose of the voyage cannot, in principle, be modified afterwards.
- The documents required for obtaining a visa are the same as before. Further documents might be required in specific cases.
- A visa for a long duration remains subject to the national regulations of the country of destination. Such a visa has to be applied for through the consular authorities of the concerned country. A visa required for the French Overseas Departments and Territories has to be applied for at the competent French consular representation.
- A visa that has been issued by one of the Schengen-countries before the 26th March 1995, remains valid until its expiry date, only within the country of its issuance.

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Clinton move seen to have dealt severe blow to Iran

TEHRAN (Agencies) — The decision by U.S. President Bill Clinton to ban U.S. companies from developing Iran's oil and gas reserves has dealt a serious blow to Tehran's efforts to revive its economy, Western experts said Wednesday.

The U.S. oil firm Conoco announced late Tuesday it was scrapping a \$1-billion contract with Iran after Mr. Clinton signed an executive order banning such deals with Tehran.

Iran announced the deal was signed in the Netherlands on March 5 between Conoco and the Iranian National Oil Company (INOC) to develop the two fields of Sirri A and E.

One expert warned Wednesday that a Washington ban on U.S. companies working with Iran could have "serious consequences in the medium term" although in the short term the cancellation of the Conoco contract is unlikely to affect the country's oil situation.

But it could embarrass Iranian leaders, among them President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who have argued that the Islamic republic should have more open economic ties with the United States, political analysts said.

Diplomatic ties between the two countries have been severed since 1980 after Iranian students stormed the U.S. embassy in 1979 and took staff hostage.

Hardliners could now seize the opportunity to press home their argument that there is no other way except confrontation with "the

Great Satan," the United States, they argued.

Iran's oil production capacity has dropped in recent months and Tehran, incapable of financing the exploitation of new oil deposits alone, is urgently in need of foreign investment.

"Iran is finding it more and more difficult to get materials to maintain its wells and production is falling," the foreign oil expert said.

A two-year financial crisis has left Iran with short and medium term debts of more than \$30 billion.

Although Iranian officials say that oil production is around 4.2 million barrels per day (bpd), experts believe the true figure is nearer 3.6 and 3.8 million bpd.

The extra 120,000 bpd which would have been produced from the Sirri fields within three years would have made a difference, even more so as under the deal INOC would have not had to spend.

Iran said it was hoping to earn \$12.5 billion from the deal in oil revenues and about 750 million dollars in gas sales.

The Iranian opposition hailed the decision by Mr. Clinton.

"The move is imperative in defending human rights and civilisation vis-a-vis the most abominable dictatorship in the contemporary world," the exiled National Council of Resistance of Iran said in a statement received in Cyprus.

"Arms smuggling"

Iran is using a network of smuggling points throughout

Europe, Russia and Central Asia to acquire technology that could help give it nuclear weapons in five years, the New York Times reported Wednesday.

Weapons parts and nuclear technology are broken into such small components that they are not easily recognisable if they are spotted moving through the various smuggling points, the Times said.

"It is almost impossible to trace the material being smuggled out by the Iranians," said a senior German intelligence official the newspaper did not identify. "Unless you know exactly what type of technology they are trying to build, the smugglers can collect various parts from various sources that mask the Iranians' intent."

Iranian officials deny they are trying to build a nuclear arsenal. The country has signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and Iran's foreign minister, Ali Akbar Velayati, has called for all nuclear weapons programmes in the Middle East to be disclosed.

But the intelligence officials told the Times Iran's effort to acquire nuclear weapons technology mirrors Iraq's attempt to build a nuclear bomb over the last 15 years.

Despite an embargo imposed by the West, they said the materials are carried on small planes that land on airstrips in Poland and possibly other Eastern European countries, often by way of Brussels and Vienna. From there the materials are loaded onto cargo planes bound for Iran, the intelligence officials said.

KABUL (Agencies) — Afghanistan's emergent Taliban student militia overran a pro-government base west of Kabul in a lightning attack on Wednesday but were later pushed back in a counter-attack, a government commander said.

In a move to fight their way back into the capital, the Taliban took just 30 minutes to capture the Qala-Hyder base on the western entrance to the city, commander Daigul Khan told reporters.

He said the government military command brought to the front line some of its most experienced fighters from 100th division who pushed the Taliban back into the hills about three kilometres further west after an eight-hour battle.

The paper said that at a time when "provocations by America's dwarves (Iraqi opposition groups) have started to rise," Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the U.N. Special Commission on disarming Iraq, and his inspectors were demanding "more and more."

It said Baghdad would also have to face what it called "the covetous intentions and the baring of teeth by many wolves and renegades calling themselves opposition in northern Iraq."

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Fighting erupted this month between government troops and opposition forces in northern Iraq and the

(Continued on page 7)

Siddig Ali: Trade centre bombers were stupid

NEW YORK (AP) — A man who allegedly plotted attacks in Manhattan told an informant that a World Trade Centre bomber bungled that job by renting a van in his own name, court transcripts showed.

"They're all stupid, of course, but he's the stupidest one of them all because he is the one who screwed up the whole thing," Siddig Ibrahim Siddig Ali said Tuesday of Mohammad Salameh.

Mr. Siddig Ali dished out his criticism three months after the Feb. 26, 1993, bombing. He was being secretly taped by Emad Salem, a government informant. The taped conversations later led to Mr. Siddig Ali's arrest.

Mr. Salameh and three others were convicted last year in the attack that killed six people and injured more than 1,000. They were sentenced to life in prison without parole.

Mr. Siddig Ali pleaded guilty last month as part of a cooperation agreement with prosecutors in the trial of Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman and 10 other men accused of conspiring to blow up live landmarks, assassinate Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and kill or kidnap others.

Also in the transcript, Mr. Salem speaks about an earlier untaped conversation with Al Sayyid Nasir in which Mr. Nasir allegedly asked him to

get to work on a plan to kill the judge who sentenced him to prison, as well as a state assemblyman from Brooklyn.

Mr. Nasir was acquitted in 1990 of the murder of extremist Rabbi Meir Kahane but was convicted of related weapons charges.

Prosecutors say the Kahane assassination was the first of several attacks planned to punish the United States for its Middle East policies.

A plan allegedly hatched by Mr. Siddig Ali called for bombs to be set off in a single day in 1993 at the United Nations, headquarters, the Holland and the Lincoln tunnels and the George Washington Bridge.

Mr. Siddig Ali told Mr. Salem that Mr. Salameh lured up the trade centre plan by renting a van in his own name. Mr. Salameh was arrested days after the bombing when he claimed the van was lost and asked for his \$400 deposit.

Mr. Siddig Ali said Mr. Salameh's actions would likely cause Americans to call him "the stupidest terrorist in the world," and that Mr. Siddig Ali agreed.

"He is the stupidest, the stupidest, the stupidest of God's creatures," he said.

Mr. Siddig Ali said the bombing was "a group effort."

"We can have confidence in them," he said.

Talibans pushed back

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